



Gc
977.201
N48a
475864

PUBLIC LIBRARY
FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO. IND

M. I

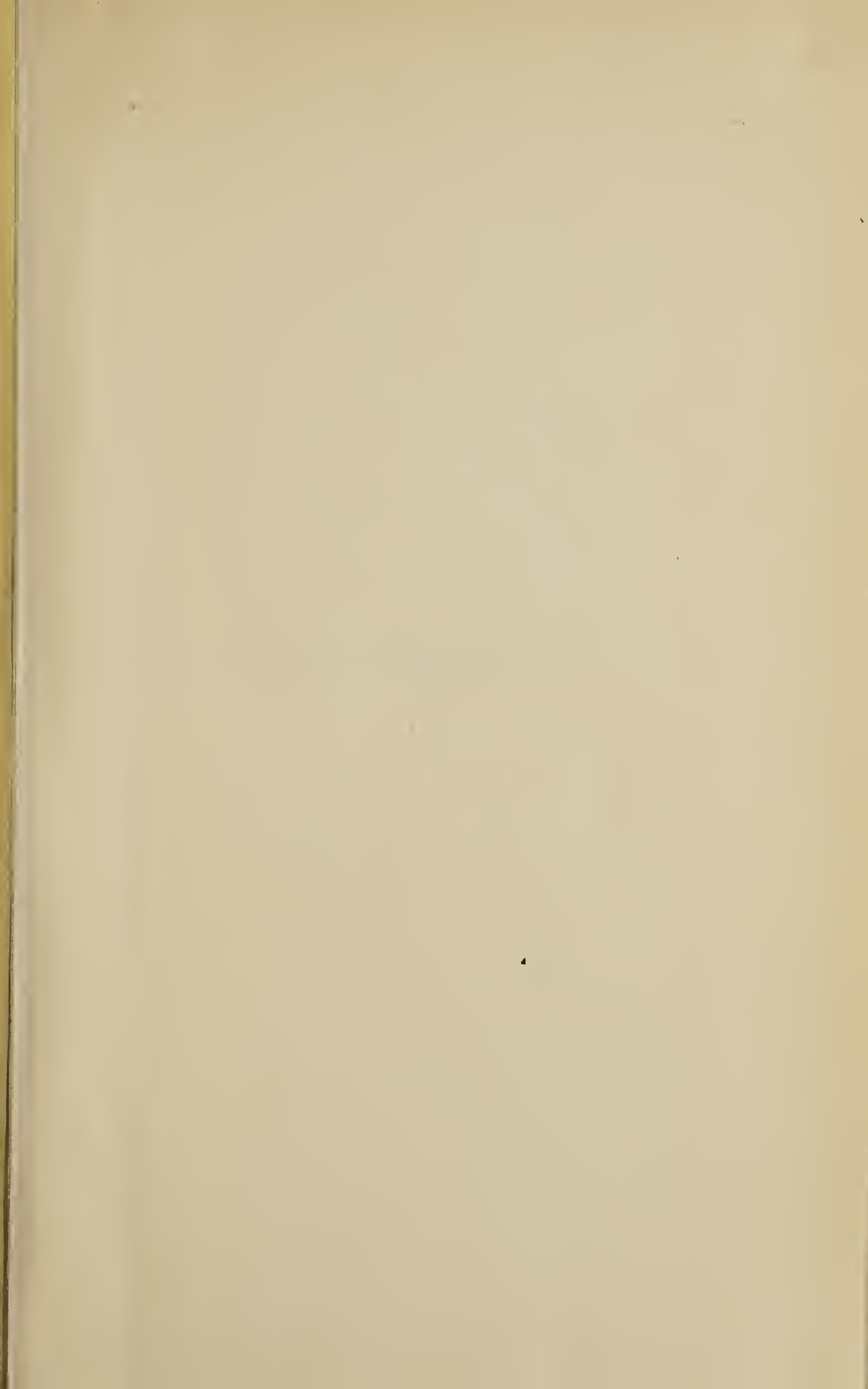
REFERENCE

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02308 2776

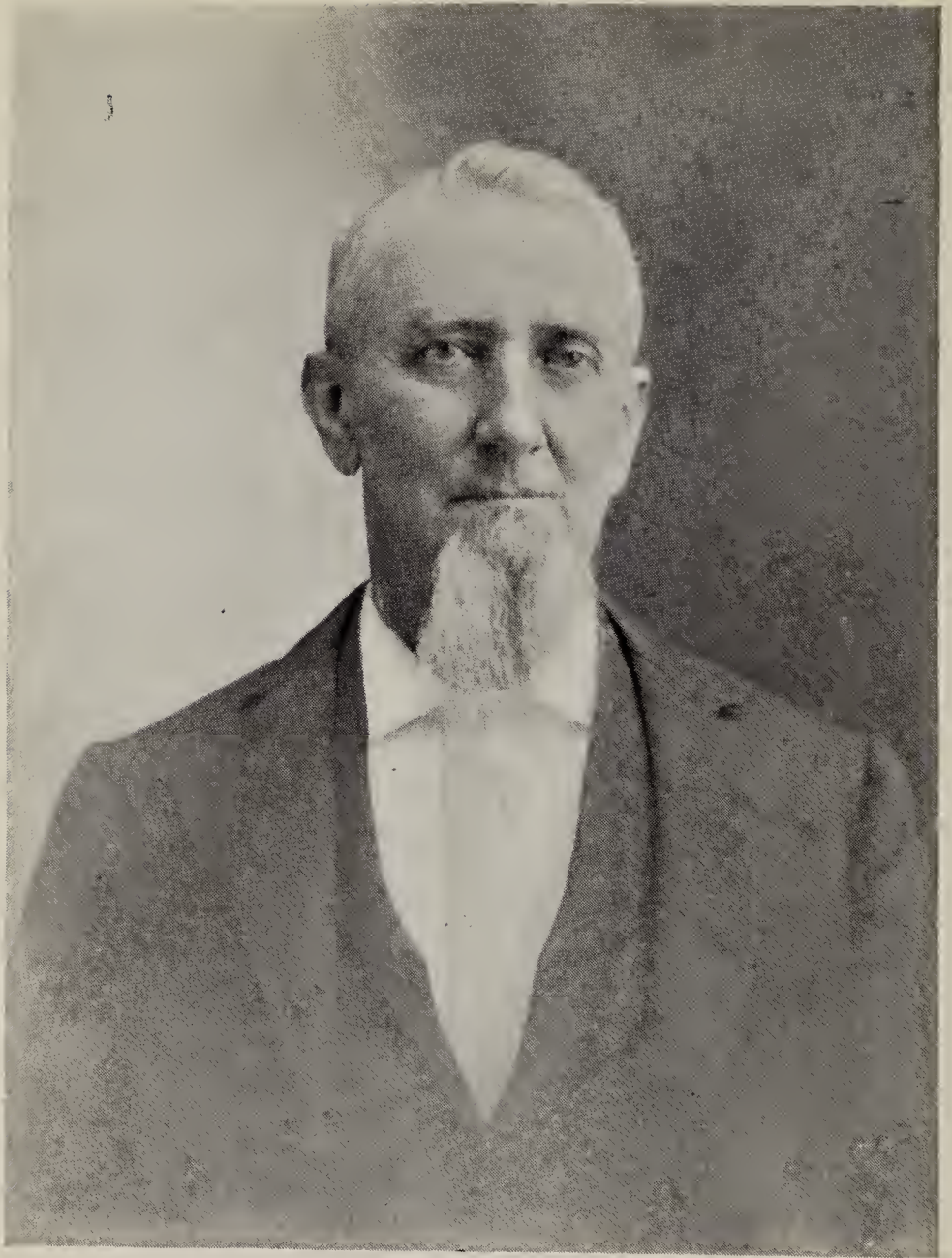
JUN 4 1941



NEWTON COUNTY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017



Yours Sincerely
John Acker

NEWTON COUNTY, ^c Ind.

By

JOHN ADE

A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL FACTS AND PERSONAL
RECOLLECTIONS CONCERNING NEWTON COUNTY,
INDIANA, FROM 1853 TO 1911.

INDIANAPOLIS
THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

COPYRIGHT 1911
JOHN ADE

THE HOLLENBECK PRESS INDIANAPOLIS
PRINTERS AND BINDERS

475864

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF

ADALINE W. ADE

MY WIFE, IN SUNSHINE AND STORM, FOR NEARLY FIFTY-SIX YEARS,
WHO, I THINK, KNEW ME FAR BETTER THAN I KNOW MYSELF

Bookazine 175

JUN 7 1861



CONTENTS

| CHAPTER | PAGE |
|--|------|
| I. INDIAN OCCUPATION | I |
| II. THE POTTAWATTAMIES | 11 |
| III. THE FIRST MURDER TRIAL | 15 |
| IV. AN EARLY TRADITION | 19 |
| V. MOROCCO IN 1853 | 26 |
| VI. BEAVER LAKE | 41 |
| VII. THE FIRST BANK | 46 |
| VIII. ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY | 54 |
| IX. STORMS ON THE PRAIRIE | 66 |
| X. TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION | 77 |
| XI. POPULATION | 83 |
| XII. THE BRANDON TRIAL | 90 |
| XIII. SOME EARLY SETTLERS | 96 |
| XIV. ROADS AND MARKETS | 101 |
| XV. A FEW STORIES | 108 |
| XVI. JUSTIFIABLE LARCENY | 123 |
| XVII. THE OLD COURT HOUSE | 129 |
| XVIII. THE NEW COURT HOUSE | 134 |
| XIX. THE COUNTY SEAT FIGHT | 141 |
| XX. OFFICIALS OF NEWTON COUNTY | 163 |
| XXI. SCHOOLS | 168 |
| XXII. CHURCHES AND PREACHERS | 171 |
| XXIII. TOWNS | 191 |
| XXIV. KENTLAND NEWSPAPERS | 196 |
| XXV. RAILROADS | 202 |
| XXVI. NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS | 205 |
| XXVII. DURING WAR TIMES | 233 |
| XXVIII. A TRIP TO VICKSBURG | 239 |
| XXIX. A TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA | 245 |
| XXX. INGERSOLL'S TRIBUTE | 256 |
| XXXI. KENTLAND FIRES | 260 |
| XXXII. DOUBLE FATALITIES | 267 |
| XXXIII. RECENT CELEBRATIONS | 282 |
| XXXIV. PAST AND PRESENT | 299 |
| XXXV. IN CONCLUSION | 311 |

PREFACE

On April 21, 1910, there was held at Kentland, Indiana, a celebration to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the organization of Newton county, Indiana.

As I was permitted to assist in the work of organizing the county, and have resided for a period of nearly sixty years within what are now the boundaries of Newton county, I feel that I may perform a service to the present generation, and to future ones, by setting down some of the facts that have come under my observation. Most of the subject-matter offered herewith was prepared during the year 1910 and was written, partly because I had been requested by friends so to do, but principally because I wished to occupy my mind and fill in the time.

I am supposed to be too old to engage in actual business, but having been accustomed to constant employment of some kind ever since I was twelve years of age, it naturally goes hard with me to sit around and do nothing. "A man is as old as he feels," and I find it difficult to convince myself that I am in my eighty-third year. Having been closely connected with many of the events making up the

early history of Newton county, it seems to me important that these events should be truthfully recorded. It is easy for fiction to take the place of fact. Much that I tell will be based upon personal knowledge. Other facts have been taken from the records, or reported to me by trustworthy persons.

When I began writing I had no intention of publishing a book, but since completing the work I have been requested by many to turn it over to the printer; and this is the only excuse I have for joining the long procession of Indiana authors.

Also it will explain why much that I have written relates to happenings that may seem to be largely of neighborhood or family interest.

This volume does not pretend to be a complete and accurate history of Newton county, but merely a record of certain facts which may have some value for those who dwell in this favored region.

JOHN ADE.

Kentland, Indiana, March 1, 1911.

NEWTON COUNTY

NEWTON COUNTY

INDIAN OCCUPATION

NEWTON COUNTY is the youngest of the ninety-two counties in the state of Indiana. It has much in its history to prove of local interest to those who may come after us, and which would be entirely lost to the world if not made a matter of record during the lives of those who were conversant with the facts which go to make up this history.

It lies almost in the northwest corner of the state, the line dividing the states of Indiana and Illinois forming its western boundary, with only one county, Lake county, between it and the northern limit of the state.

Directly to the south lies Benton county, the banner corn county of Indiana, and a continuation of the rich black belt of central Illinois.

To the east is Jasper county, of which the

county-seat, Rensselaer, was one of the early settlements of northern Indiana and is now a most attractive little city.

Perhaps never before, within the span of one human life, have such marvelous changes taken place along a new and unpromising frontier, as some of us older settlers have witnessed here in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana.

I was a resident of Chicago during the summer of 1849. It was then a pretentious country town. Only a few years before that, the region surrounding it had been an unbroken wilderness. Now it is one of the great commercial capitals of the world, with a population exceeding two millions and a trade so stupendous that the figures are beyond comprehension.

Where, less than a century ago, the only roads were the narrow trails of the red man, now in every direction long railroad trains are distributing the commerce of the world, and the work of material development seems to have just begun.

For instance, in the northern portion of Lake county, where, three years ago, was a vast expanse of sand ridges and sloughs, to-day is in operation the largest steel industry in the world, around which has grown up the city of Gary with its paved streets, concrete sidewalks, electric lights, water and drainage systems, and a population of some twenty thousand and increasing rapidly.

Going back eighty-four years—in July, 1827, what is now the city of Chicago was a settlement of six or seven American families, a number of half-breeds, and a few vagabond Indians. At that time the Winnebago Indians were gathering in the neighborhood of Green Bay, threatening to attack and destroy the few white settlements established along the lakes. Gurdon S. Hubbard was a resident of Chicago and the owner of trading posts, established along the Iroquois river where the towns of Middleport and Bunkum were afterward located, and also of a trading post on the Kankakee river in Newton county, after-

ward known as Blue Grass, near the present site of the town of Thayer.

At that time Mr. Hubbard had an Indian wife by the name of Watseka, from whom the now thriving city of Iroquois county, Illinois, derived its name.

Realizing their danger, the settlers at Chicago appealed to Mr. Hubbard to hurry to Danville, Illinois, and secure volunteers to assist them in defending their homes.

He started from Chicago one morning and the same night reached the trading post near Bunkum, on the Iroquois river, about two miles from the Indiana state line. Procuring a fresh horse, he rode on to Danville, Vermilion county.

At that time all inhabitants of the county, capable of bearing arms, were enrolled under the militia law of the state, and organized as a battalion. The officers of the battalion notified their men to meet at a designated point, and on a call for volunteers fifty men offered their services and were accepted. Archibald Morgan was chosen as captain. Many of the

men were without horses, and the neighbors who did not go loaned their horses to the volunteers. After being mustered in they disbanded with orders to prepare five days' rations and report at Danville the following day. Starting from Danville they passed the cabin of Seymour Treat, three miles north of Danville, which was the last habitation until they reached Hubbard's trading post on the north bank of the Iroquois river about a mile above the point where the town of Bunkum was afterward located. From this point there was no other habitation, except Indian wigwams, until they reached Fort Dearborn. It was a prairie wilderness all the way, except for a little timber near Sugar creek and at the Iroquois river.

On arriving at the Hubbard post a lot of Indians, some of them half naked, were lying and lounging about the river bank. When it was proposed to swim the horses over, the men objected, fearing the Indians might do some mischief, such as opening fire on them while they were in mid-stream, but Mr. Hubbard as-

sured them these were friendly Indians. Later, they learned they were Pottawattamies, and friendly to the whites.

In regard to their arms it is said they were very deficient. They had gathered up squirrel rifles, old flint-lock muskets, in fact anything like a gun that they could lay hands on. Some had no guns whatever and were afterward supplied by Mr. Hubbard. He also furnished them with flour and salt pork. They remained at Hubbard's post all night, the next morning again moving forward, swimming Beaver creek and crossing the Kankakee river at the rapids, the present site of the city of Momence. Pushing on, they reached Yellow Heads that day. Next morning they set out again, crossing a branch of the Calumet, west of Blue Island. All the way from Danville they followed an Indian trail, known as Hubbard's Trail. There was no sign of road and, but for the knowledge which Mr. Hubbard had of the country, they could not have found their way, as the entire country was crossed and re-crossed by Indian trails. It had been raining

some days before they left home and it rained almost all the time they were on the route.

They reached Chicago about four o'clock on the evening of the fourth day after leaving Danville, in the midst of a very severe rain-storm accompanied by thunder and vicious lightning. The people of Chicago were glad indeed to receive them, as they had been expecting an attack every hour since Hubbard had left them. They had organized a company of forty or fifty men, composed mostly of Canadian half-breeds, with a few Americans, under the command of Captain Beaubien. They kept guard day and night for some ten days, when a man came in from Green Bay bringing word that General Cass had concluded a treaty with the Winnebagoes, consequently the danger was over. The citizens were overjoyed at the news and in their gladness turned out one barrel of gin, one barrel of brandy and one barrel of whisky. Knocking in the heads of the barrels, everybody was invited to take a few drinks, and it is said everybody did drink. Captain Morgan, with

his company of volunteers, started on the return trip, camping out at night and reaching home the evening of the third day.

The citizens of Chicago had every reason to fear the Indians, inasmuch as the original settlement had been practically wiped out by what is known in history as the Fort Dearborn massacre, on the spot now marked by a beautiful stone memorial.

In 1804 Fort Chicago was established on the south bank of the river, about the spot where State street joins the river and on the same ground where Fort Dearborn was erected in 1817. About the time of the establishment of Fort Chicago, the American Fur Company established a station under the protection of the fort. For the first eight years there was little of interest to be noted. In 1812, however, the war broke out with England, and the consequences were peculiarly disastrous to all the western settlements exposed to the hostility of neighboring tribes of Indians.

Chicago being then an extreme frontier

post, and the country around it full of hostile Indians, on the 9th day of August, 1812, Captain Heald, the officer in command at the time, received an order to abandon the fort and proceed with the troops to Fort Wayne. The evacuation of the fort took place on the 15th day of August, 1812, six days after the order had been received from General Hull. About nine o'clock on the morning of that day the party, composed of fifty-four regulars, twelve militia, and several families, left the fort under the escort of Captain Wells. Their route lay south along the beach of the lake and after proceeding about a mile and a half they were fired upon by the Indians, and in fifteen minutes almost the entire party was killed or wounded. The survivors were made prisoners and marched back to the Indian encampment near the fort, where some of the wounded prisoners were murdered in the most shocking manner by the squaws, the small number surviving being distributed among the different members of the tribe. The day following this

action, the Indians burned the fort and dispersed.

The fort was rebuilt in 1817, when it took the name of Fort Dearborn. It was occupied, except at short intervals, by a garrison, until 1837, when the Indians having generally left the country, it was finally evacuated.

The preceding pages are merely preliminary to the history of Newton county. They will indicate, by contrast, the wonderful changes that have overtaken us within two or three generations. While the changes within the boundaries of Newton county are not so revolutionary or startling as those that have made Chicago one of the seven wonders of the world, they are sufficiently remarkable to be of interest to all who reside within its borders.

THE POTTAWATTAMIES

ORIGINALLY the Pottawattamie tribe of Indians had exclusive control over this part of the country, their territory extending from the Rock river in the west to the Scioto river in the east, and from the lakes on the north to the Ohio river on the south, now embraced in the states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Later, owing to the fact that other Indian tribes were being pressed westward by the encroachment of the whites, they were confined very largely to northern Indiana and Illinois. They were a bold and warlike race of people and for many years maintained a hostile attitude toward the white pioneer. They joined with the French against the Iroquois and the English; and afterward joined with the English against the Americans, only yielding to the inevitable in the general pacifica-

tion which closed the war of 1812. From this time they were faithful friends of the Americans and are entitled to very much credit in assisting to defeat the Winnebagoes' outbreak in 1827, and also the one under Black Hawk in 1832.

The state of Indiana, and especially the northwestern part, was their last place of abode east of the Mississippi, and although they assumed an attitude of tribal freedom, they accepted the position of ward toward the national government.

The section of the state of which Newton county now forms a part was held by the Indians long after the whites had begun to dominate central and southern Indiana. Here they trapped and hunted, and, indeed, this portion of our country at that time was a perfect Indian paradise, abounding in fish and wild game, together with all kinds of fur-bearing animals which they sold to the white traders or exchanged for supplies.

The encroachment of the whites increased so rapidly that it became necessary for the gov-

ernment to remove the Indians to a new home in what was then our far western territory. The Pottawattamies owned extensive tracts of land on the Wabash and its western tributaries and also in northwestern Indiana, but the titles gradually passed from them, notwithstanding government restrictions placed upon their disposal of lands. There were several partial removals of the Pottawattamies, the final and principal one taking place during the summer of 1838, under the charge of General Tipton. Doctor Fitch, then of Logansport, acted under appointment by the government as medical director. This large emigration, numbering about one thousand of all ages, started reluctantly toward the setting sun. It is said they formed a mournful spectacle, these children of the forest, slowly retiring from the homes of their childhood and the graves of their ancestors. They knew they were bidding a last farewell to the hills, to the valleys and the streams of their childhood, the hunting grounds of their youth, and the stern and bloody battlefields of their ripened manhood

—all these they were leaving behind to be desecrated by the plowshare of the white man. Every few miles one of the throng would strike out from the procession, into the woods, and retrace his steps back to the old encampments, declaring he would die there sooner than be banished from the country, and it was several years before these stragglers could be induced to join their brethren west of the Mississippi. This body, on their western journey, passed within a few miles of Lafayette and on through Danville, Illinois, where they halted for several days, being in want of food. They were without tents or other shelter and many of the women carried young babes in their arms. All were compelled to travel on foot. Thus the mournful procession passed across the state of Illinois, toward their future home in the west, one hundred and fifty of their number dying on the way. They finally reached their new home on the Missouri.

THE FIRST MURDER TRIAL

ALTHOUGH the celebrated criminal trial to which I would call attention, was held at Bunkum, across the state line, it deserves mention as a part of local history. Several of the persons actually participating in the trial afterward became citizens of Newton county. Furthermore, county and state lines did not form arbitrary divisions as they do at present. Bunkum was the center of a community of which Newton county was only a part.

Strange as it may seem, the first person arrested for murder in Cook county, Illinois (the county in which Chicago is situated), was brought to Bunkum under a change of venue. In the month of May, 1836, a man was found dead near the roadside a few miles west of Chicago. A knife wound in the body showed that the man had been murdered. A few days after the discovery of the body, a man

calling himself Joseph L. Morris was arrested and indicted by the grand jury. The feeling in Cook county was so strong against him that his counsel took a change of venue to Iroquois county. The trial came up at the May term, 1836, of the Iroquois circuit court, and was held at the house of Richard Montgomery. Those present were: Stephen S. Logan, judge; James Grant, state's attorney; Hugh Newell, clerk, and Samuel M. Dunn, sheriff. The prisoner's counsel asked for a continuance, which was refused, and the prisoner pleading "not guilty," a jury was impaneled, consisting of Benjamin Fry, Jacob W. Whiteman, Samuel Rush, Alexander Wilson, James Frame, Jacob Morgan, Wesley Spitler, William A. Cole, Ira Lindsey and Isaac Fry.

The evidence was that the prisoner had been seen in the company of the deceased, that a knife found upon the person of the prisoner was identified as one belonging to the murdered man. These and other facts presented caused the jury to bring in the following verdict:

“We, the jury, find the defendant guilty in manner and form, as charged in the indictment.”

On May 19, 1836, a motion for a new trial being overruled, the court passed sentence as follows:

“It is ordered and adjudged by the court that the said defendant be taken hence by the sheriff of Iroquois county, and confined and safely kept by said sheriff until Friday, the 10th day of June next, on which day the said defendant shall be taken by said sheriff to some convenient place in said county and then and there, between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon of the said day, by the said sheriff hanged by the neck until he shall be dead.”

The prisoner was ironed and confined in one of the houses near by until the day of his execution, which took place at the appointed time. He was placed in a wagon and a rope was looped around his neck, the other end of the rope being fastened to the limb of a large walnut tree. This tree stood in the bottoms, on

the north side of the Iroquois river, about half way between the present wagon bridge and the bluff. The wagon was driven out from under him and he was left hanging until dead. His guards, during the time between his sentence and execution, were Samuel M. Dunn, sheriff, and George Courtright. A large crowd of people came from long distances to witness the execution. The day was one of rain and storm. The prisoner, on his way to execution, smoked a cigar with great fortitude and, on arriving at the place of execution, made a short speech, justifying his past life. When life was extinct the body was buried at a point a little south-east of Bunkum.

AN EARLY TRADITION

DURING the time the Indians held possession of this country, but only a short time before the whites began to crowd in on them, two of the Indians, one named Turkey Foot and the other Bull Foot, got into a fight, caused, it is said, by a drunken brawl, in which one or both were killed—tradition says both. They were placed in a sitting posture, facing each other, and a log pen built around them to keep away the wolves. My impression is that there was but one in the pen, as John Myers, who came to this country in 1836, informed me that soon after he came, while on a hunting expedition, he saw the pen and went up to it, and while leaning against the log pen, his dog got his head through the crack and got hold of the dead Indian's foot and gave Mr. Myers quite a scare for an instant. This pen,

he told me, was in a grove about two and one-half miles southwest from where the town of Morocco was afterward located. In the same grove Silas Johnson built his house and resided until his death.

Dempsey Johnson, one of the early settlers of the county, has given to me his version of the interesting tradition, as he gathered it from the first residents of this region. I shall insert Mr. Johnson's story, just as he turned it over to me.

THE TWO INDIANS

In Beaver township, Newton county, Indiana, there were two groves of timber, one called Turkey Foot Grove and the other Bull Foot Grove, the latter being located in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 30, township 29 north, in range 9 west, and Turkey Foot Grove being located in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 32 in said township and range afore-

said. These two groves were about a mile and a half apart.

It is reported that Turkey Foot went over to visit Bull Foot, that they had a quarrel over some matter and Turkey Foot killed Bull Foot. Then, for revenge, Bull Foot's son killed Turkey Foot, after which he stood the two bodies upright against two trees standing close together, with their faces toward each other. He then cut poles and built a pen around them. When the white men began to settle in that neighborhood they gathered up the bones of these two Indians and buried them near where they were found.

The above information was given me by the early settlers. Jacob Ash was the first white man to live in Turkey Foot Grove. He moved there in the year 1842. His daughter, now Catherine Dearduff, is living in Morocco at this time. In said county at that time there were but two houses between Turkey Foot Grove and the town of Rensselaer, Indiana, one of which was occupied by John Murphy and the other by Philip Reynolds, both being

in Beaver township. James Cuppy was the first white man that lived at Bull Foot Grove. Silas Johnson and Robert Archibald bought Cuppy out and moved there in the year 1846. The writer came with them, and saw within Bull Foot Grove a lot of poles in a thick clump of brush, and the neighbors said that this marked the resting-place of the two Indians. From the years 1846 to 1848 I was at Bull Foot Grove a number of times, and saw where the bones of the two Indians were supposed to be buried, which spot had been rooted up by the hogs, and small bones were present that had been rooted out.

Dr. Charles E. Triplett, Sr., came from Kentucky in the year 1856, and went down to Bull Foot Grove and took up quite a number of bones, among which were two thigh bones. Those thigh bones showed that one was a tall man and the other a short man. They further showed that the short man had had his thigh bone broken some time in his life, and that it had overlapped and grown together. He said that Turkey Foot was the taller of the two.

He got this information from a man named Sol McCulloch, he, McCulloch, stating that he had seen them.

Turkey Foot Grove has black oak, burr oak, elm, cherry and hackberry timber. Bull Foot Grove had the same kind of timber, excepting the elm. Turkey Foot Grove is in a good state of preservation at this time, containing about forty acres of large timber, while Bull Foot Grove has all been cleared away and the land is now used for agricultural purposes.

(Signed) DEMPSEY MCD. JOHNSON.

Morocco, Indiana, November 16, 1910.

There is another tradition that Bogus Island (northwest of the present station of Enos) was headquarters for a gang of horse-thieves and counterfeiters, and much has been said and written in regard to the same. I think the stories have been greatly exaggerated, but this much is undoubtedly true: At one time, along about 1837, two or three men were on the island and engaged to some extent in making counterfeit silver coin. They were arrested

and brought before Wesley Spitler, a justice of the peace, who then lived in the same house afterward occupied by Zechariah Spitler. These men were tried and bound over to court, but they forfeited their bond and the case never was tried. For these facts I am indebted to Wesley Spitler, who gave them to me in an interview shortly before his death.

There was one case of horse-stealing of which I had some personal knowledge, having met and talked with the parties who were in pursuit of the thief, both when they were going and on their return. This was, I think, in 1857. A horse had been stolen in the neighborhood of Milford, Illinois. A party consisting of some twelve or fifteen men started in pursuit. They got on the track of the thief and followed him, and at a house a little east of where the town of Conrad now stands, they found the horse, also shortly got in pursuit of the thief, who jumped into the big ditch between Beaver lake and the Kankakee river, but a short distance from where they found the horse. As the thief was climbing up the bank

of the ditch, on the opposite side, the party fired at him, as they all had guns, and he fell back into the ditch, dead. They then went back to the house, got their horse, and arrested the man living there and took him to Rensselaer, where he was afterward tried and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary for harboring horse thieves. His name was William Shaffer.

MOROCCO IN 1853

AS this history was prepared for the members of my family and my more intimate friends, I hope I will be permitted to touch upon matters that might seem out of place in a book addressed to the general public.

I was married to Adaline W. Bush at Cheviot, Ohio, then a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 20, 1851, by Thomas Wells, Esq., a personal friend of both my wife and myself.

Until the early part of 1853, I lived at and kept the old toll-gate between Cheviot and Cincinnati. At that time I received a request from Ayres and Company, of Bunkum, Illinois—old acquaintances of mine—to move out and take charge of a branch store which they had established at Morocco, Jasper county, Indiana. Accepting their offer, I left Cincinnati on March 10, 1853, going by steamboat

to Madison, Indiana. At that time there was no railroad from Cincinnati to Indianapolis.

Arriving at Madison early the next morning, we took the train on the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad and arrived at Indianapolis about noon. We went to the Wright House, a large frame hotel on Washington street, standing where the New York Store is now located. There we got our dinner and then took a train for Lafayette on the Indianapolis & Lafayette Railroad, which had just been opened up for travel and extended to the top of the hill about two miles east of Lafayette. We remained in Lafayette two days and then started for Bunkum, Illinois, in a two-horse carriage.

We were met at Lafayette by Mark Ayres, who accompanied us on the remainder of the trip. Leaving Lafayette early in the morning, we made the first twelve miles in fine shape, our route that far being over a new plank road just completed by the Ellsworth Land Company. At the end of the plank road we started to go through a lane about a mile long, before

reaching the open prairie. We soon found the same impassable, so we let down the fence and drove through the fields.

We reached Oxford, then the county seat of Benton county, about two o'clock. There we fed our team and had dinner. We then started for Parish Grove, which point we reached after dark and in a heavy rain. In fact, when we got to the grove the only way by which we were able to follow the road was for one of us to go ahead on foot and keep calling out, thus enabling the driver to find his way by sound instead of by sight. The Boswell family was then living in the grove and at first said they could not take care of us, but Mr. Ayres, who was somewhat acquainted with them, said it did not make any difference what they said, that we were there to stay, and stay we did, as it was eight miles to the next house.

In the morning we started for Sumner's Grove. When we came to Mud Creek we found it was very deep, but we started to ford it. When nearly across, one of the single-trees floated off. We had to get out in the water,

waist-deep, and tie the traces to the double-tree before we could pull out. In the meantime, Adaline, holding the baby in her lap, had tried to keep her feet on the seat but made a slip and she was wet nearly to her knees. After making the shore, we drove on to the Sumner home, where we dried our clothes and got our dinner. During our stay at Sumner's, Mr. Sumner got into conversation with us and found out where we were going. He said he was glad to hear it, that he had been acquainted with Bunkum for fifteen years, and that during that time people had been continuously moving in, and but few moved out, and that it was just about the same size then that it had been fifteen years before. In fact, he did not even recollect of ever being there when there was not a corpse in the town. After he left, however, Mrs. Sumner, who noticed that Adaline was badly worried over his statement, told her to pay no attention to his stories, as it was not nearly so bad as he had attempted to make it.

After dinner we started for Bunkum. Mr.

Sumner went part of the way, piloting us across Sugar Creek. Late that afternoon we reached the famous city of "Bunkum." It may be well to state here that Bunkum was not the name of the town at all, but the name used by every one at that time for two different towns, the Iroquois river forming the dividing line between the two—the one on the south side of the river was Montgomery, and the one on the north side was Concord.

After we left Parish Grove in the morning, until we reached the timber on the Iroquois river, we passed but two houses, no others being in sight on either side of the road. The first was the Sumner house and the other was a small house standing on what is now the east end of Sheldon, Illinois. There was not a bridge across any of the streams between the end of the plank road and the Iroquois river.

We remained in Bunkum six weeks, during which time I made six trips to Lafayette, hauling goods for the store one way and produce, largely eggs, the other way. Eggs were then five cents a dozen. One load, I remember, was

packed in walnut sawdust which colored the eggs so badly that we had hard work to dispose of them at any price.

Bunkum, at that time, was a great business town. It had four large stores, drawing trade from the surrounding country as far away as thirty or forty miles. The firms doing business were Ayres and Company, Fowler and Smith, Charles Sherman, and John Donovan, nearly all of whom afterward moved to Watseka, when the railroad was built. John Donovan is the only one of the number now living.

We moved to Morocco, Indiana, about April 25, 1853. At that time the town was about two years old and had some six or seven houses. On the road from Bunkum to Morocco, after passing the Dunning farm, about half a mile from Bunkum, until we reached the Robert Archibald farm, a distance of ten miles, all was open prairie, with the exception of an improvement just commenced by William Plummer, which was about half way between these two points. Of those living in Morocco at that time, David Pulver and A. W.

Bebout are the only ones left among the living. Mrs. Pulver passed away since I began writing these recollections.

At that time Morocco was the only town in the territory now comprising Newton county. The nearest post-office was Bunkum on the west, twelve miles, and Rensselaer on the east, eighteen miles. There was a post-office at the residence of Amos Clark, called White's Grove, established September 27, 1853. This house stood about a half-mile southeast of what is now known as the Pleasant Grove meeting-house, near the Iroquois river, in Jefferson township. On April 27, 1854, it was moved to the residence of Zechariah Spitler, and again on June 20, 1861, to the residence of Elijah Kenoyer, where it remained until October 15, 1861, when it was discontinued.

There was also a post-office called Brook, several miles farther up the river, both supplied by mail carried on horseback once a week. The first office was about two miles southwest of the present town of the same name. The several postmasters of the Brook

post-office, and the dates of their appointment, are as follows :

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| George W. Spitler | August 23, 1837 |
| John Montgomery | April 22, 1840 |
| Samuel H. Benjamin | August 18, 1853 |
| Alfred D. Tale | February 28, 1856 |
| James E. Stacey | October 24, 1856 |
| S. A. Chaffee | December 27, 1859 |
| Aaron Lyons | June 23, 1860 |
| Albert S. Warren | May 22, 1866 |
| F. E. Ross | May 17, 1867 |
| John G. Perry | May 4, 1868 |
| W. F. DeHaven | August 16, 1872 |
| Hiram C. Dryer | July 28, 1874 |
| J. L. Hess | October 11, 1877 |
| David E. Lowe | February 17, 1879 |
| Manez A. Pendergrass | December 8, 1882 |
| Joseph Merchant | July 23, 1889 |
| William J. Corbin | October 13, 1893 |
| Morris A. Jones | September 14, 1897 |

The Brook post-office was by far the oldest in the county. Morocco had no mail connections with Brook or White's Grove. We communicated with the outside world through

Bunkum, Illinois (the post-office was Concord), and Rensselaer, Indiana.

In 1854 we succeeded in getting a post-office at Morocco, on condition that the citizens would agree to carry the mail once a week to Rensselaer and back, also keep the post-office for the proceeds of the office, so that it should be no expense to the government.

As this was the best arrangement that could be made, the conditions were accepted. John Ade was appointed postmaster and David Pulver appointed mail carrier. A few months later an office was established in Jackson township, called Pilot Grove, and Stephen Elliott was appointed postmaster. This condition of things existed for some three years, when John Ade was removed for offensive partisanship. There was no civil service in those days but, as a prominent state politician put the case, "The times now require that every government official must be a firm supporter of the administration."

At the time above spoken of, envelopes and postage stamps were unknown. When a letter

was written, it was folded and fastened either with a wafer or sealing-wax. The rate of postage depended upon the distance the letter had to be carried, and the money could be received from the sender or collected at the destination. This necessitated making out a way-bill with each package of letters sent to the different offices, showing the amount paid and the amount to be collected on each package. Few of our institutions have shown a more decided change than the mail service. 475864

In 1851 a new constitution was adopted by the state of Indiana; and the next legislature, which met during the winter of 1852-1853, enacted many laws to put in force the changes made necessary by the new constitution. One of the most important of these enactments was the adoption of an entirely new school system. After the new school law had been passed, it took considerable time to make it effective, as taxes had to be levied and collected, and new officers elected.

In the early part of 1853 there was not a single public school building in the district now

forming the county of Newton. There were several buildings used for school and meeting-house purposes, but they were all built by private enterprise. Some of them were built by single individuals, and all were log buildings. There was one at Morocco; one about a mile and a half west, known as the Kessler school house; one on the river, built by the Myers and Kenoyer families; one in Jackson township, near the Jabez Wright residence. There may have been one southeast of the present town of Brook. In most of these, school was taught for a short term in each year, persons in the neighborhood uniting to employ a teacher, he boarding around among the pupils, in many cases, as part pay for the services rendered. These buildings did not have a nail or any other article of iron in their composition. The floors, benches and doors were made of puncheons; wooden hinges for the doors, and for a light, a log would be sawed out of the side of the building, and when they did not have glass, greased paper was used in place of it. The roof was made by using clapboards

about three feet long, split out of logs and held down in place by logs called "weight poles." When meetings were held at night, and spelling schools, it was expected that each family would bring a candle or a saucer of grease with a rag in it to furnish light for the occasion. Rude and unsatisfactory as these conditions may seem to have been, many of our prominent men got their first elements of an education in these very schools.

Prior to 1834, at which time the lands in this part of the state were surveyed and placed on the market through the land-office at Winamac (price one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, payable in gold or silver), no one had actual title. Some of it was settled by squatters. Others filed claims and proved them up and purchased the lands after they were thrown open for entry.

Settlements were made exclusively either in the timber or along the edges of it. No one thought of getting out on the open prairie. In fact, the surveyor, making his notes to the government in his report of the survey of the

prairie in the south part of the county said: "Land is good; covered with fine grass, but owing to the scarcity of timber can never support anything but a very sparse population."

Along the edge of the Beaver timber some of the earliest settlers along this line of timber were:

John Murphy, who was one of the first, settling there in 1838. He laid out the town of Morocco on a part of his farm in 1851.

Dempsey Johnson in 1849, Daniel Dearduff in 1844, Josiah Dunn in 1832, and John Elliott in 1832. John Lyons built a house on the Iroquois river in 1832 and started what was afterward known as the Brook settlement. A son, Aaron Lyons, born that same year, is conceded to be the first white child born in the territory of Newton county. Samuel Benjamin also settled there about the same time. Samuel Lyons came in 1840; Philip Earl in 1837.

A few miles farther down the river was what was known as the Kenoyer settlement. In 1836 Jacob Kenoyer settled near Spitler's

Creek, and in 1845 erected the first sawmill in the county. It was a water-mill and run by throwing a dam across the creek, a short distance east of the farm now owned by George Spitler. Samuel and Frederick Kenoyer, brothers of Jacob Kenoyer, also settled in the same neighborhood in 1836; and John Myers, the same year, followed a short time after by Amos Clark, Amos White and Charles Anderson on the south side of the river.

Settling right in the heavy timber were John Montgomery, father-in-law of Morris Lyons, and John Roberts, who were both early settlers, John Roberts in 1843 and Morris Lyons about the same time. A little farther down the river was the residence of Bassett Timmons, father of Joshua Timmons, who settled near what was known as the Timmons ford in 1835. Down toward the state line was the Whiteman settlement, consisting of five brothers: Jacob, Joshua, Amos, Ezekiel and Henry, who settled there in 1835, possibly a little earlier. On the south side of the river, right on the state

line, lived Samuel M. Dunn, who was acting-sheriff in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1835, at the time Joseph L. Morris was hung in the town of Bunkum.

BEAVER LAKE

THE early settler in Newton county, though deprived of any near source of supplies, found no difficulty in finding support for himself and family. A new-comer brought with him a limited supply of flour, coffee, tea and sugar. With this stock as a basis, he found it possible to furnish his table with all he needed. Deer were found in great abundance, as well as almost all other kinds of game, such as geese, brant, ducks, prairie chickens—in fact, in that early day this part of the country was a perfect Indian and hunter's paradise. And for many years, even after this country was fairly well settled, hunting parties would come from long distances to enjoy the sport and supply themselves with luxuries so easily obtained. For many years Alexander Lanier, of Madison, Indiana,

would come here for several weeks in each year to gratify his delight in this kind of sport and recreation.

There was another source of supplies and revenue—in fact, for many years it afforded the settler his only means of getting the little sums of actual money with which to supply himself with necessary articles not produced at home. The winter time was then the harvest time of the year, for in that season the fur-bearing animals were eagerly sought, captured and skinned, and the pelts sold to fur-buyers who had agents at convenient points supplied with ready money. Sometimes the competition between opposing buyers was quite brisk. The principal fur-bearing animals were the mink, raccoon, muskrat, deer once in a while, and, in a very early day, before the country was settled by the whites, some beaver. The quality of the fur captured here was said to be very fine and much superior to that taken no farther south than the Wabash river.

One of the localities famous among hunters and trappers was Beaver Lake, a body of water

covering a large portion of township 30, range 9, now known as McClellan township. This body of water was about seven miles in length, east and west, and about five miles at its widest part, north and south, with a depth of not to exceed eight or nine feet in its deepest places. It was celebrated as a wonderful fishing resort, and amazing stories are told of the vast number caught sometimes by a single draw of the seine. At certain times of the year myriads of geese, ducks, swan and other game birds would be found there. As a spot for hunting and fishing it had no equal in any other portion of the state.

When the original survey of this part of the country was made, this lake itself was not included in the survey but was meandered and fractions all around the boundaries of same were purchased by John P. Dunn and Amzie B. Condit, who afterward deeded the same to Michael G. Bright, who claimed all inside of these fractions and extended the lines across the lake by platting the same in 1857, dividing it into forty-acre tracts and giving each lot a

number, commencing at number 1 and running to number 427. About this time, through some kind of a settlement made with an outgoing state treasurer, he deeded to the state of Indiana each alternate forty-acre tract, the state getting the odd-numbered tracts, and Michael G. Bright retaining the even-numbered tracts. In 1865 the state authorized the selling of its lands so held, making the terms of sale one dollar and fifty cents an acre for one year, all remaining unsold at the expiration of the year to be held at one dollar per acre.

About 1853 the first effort was made to drain the lake by cutting a ditch from the northwest part of the lake to the Kankakee river. The contract to make this ditch was taken by Austin M. Puett, grandfather of William Darroch. This first ditch carried off enough water to cause the shore line to recede about a hundred yards—in other words, it reclaimed a very narrow strip all around the lake. As this ditch was enlarged and tributaries opened, the old bed of standing water gradually disappeared and Beaver Lake is

now dry land at most seasons of the year. The name remains but the "lake" itself is now only a memory of the past.

THE FIRST BANK

ONE of the most noted and far-reaching laws enacted by the legislature of 1853 was the adoption of what was known as the free banking law. Under its provisions, any person or persons depositing with the secretary of state bonds of any state in the union, were authorized to issue currency for an equal amount. The object of many of the founders of banks under this law was to establish them as far away from the lines of travel as possible and put the money into circulation at points far distant from the banks of issue. As Morocco was then forty miles from the nearest railroad, and the intervening country was very sparsely settled, Morocco made a very desirable point for the establishment of such a bank.

The first intimation to the citizens of Morocco that the Bank of America had been es-

established came in 1854. I had been to Cincinnati on a visit, and while there saw some of the money in circulation. Shortly after my return from Cincinnati, in company with John Murphy, I went to Rensselaer on business in connection with the new post-office, of which I had been appointed postmaster. Shortly after our arrival in Rensselaer we were called into the office of George W. Spitler, who informed us of the fact that a bank had been established in Morocco and told us of some of the advantages that would accrue to the country by reason of the same—that our school funds would be increased and the county developed by inducing persons to locate in that vicinity, also that within a short time some of the officers of the bank would be among us and erect a bank building and take charge of the business in general. In the meantime, before these things could be attended to, he requested Mr. Murphy to take home with him one thousand dollars in gold to redeem any bills that might be presented before the regular officers arrived to take charge of things. Mr. Murphy said

that was more money than he wanted to be responsible for, but finally he consented to take one hundred dollars for the purpose named.

As time passed, Mr. Murphy redeemed what few bills were presented, until the amount brought from Rensselaer was exhausted, and still no one put in an appearance to establish the bank. But, having entire confidence in the stability of the bank, he redeemed other notes until he had paid another hundred dollars out of his own money. Then he sent David Pulver to Rensselaer with a request for some one to come down and attend to the business or else send more money. On arriving at Rensselaer, Mr. Pulver was informed that the bank had changed owners and there was no one there authorized to speak for the further action of the institution. There was no clue to the proprietors and Mr. Murphy had two hundred dollars of the paper of the Bank of America on his hands, without any assurance that he would ever realize anything for his money expended. It is safe to say he did no further banking business, but when the

affairs of the bank were eventually wound up by the secretary of state he made a reasonable salary besides the return of his money, as the issue of the bank, amounting to about seventy-five thousand dollars, was redeemed at eighty cents on the dollar. No one ever appeared to make settlement with Mr. Murphy, nor is it known that there was ever any person in the town of Morocco that had any right of ownership in the same. I was not president of the bank, although there is an outstanding joke to that effect.

This is not an exceptional case, for the state was full of banks that had but little, if any, better foundation on which to rest. This was almost a fair example of the condition of the finances of the state under what was known as the wild-cat banking system.

It is impossible for us to-day to realize the difficulties of doing business under that system. Whenever a bill was offered, you had to get the latest Bank Note Reporter and find the quotation. It might be worthless or show any shade of discount. When one crossed the state

line no one in another state would accept his local currency.

To illustrate, I had a note for fifty dollars, due in six months without interest. One of my neighbors bought it, taking the note at its face, and discounted his money ten per cent.

A great many stories are told of the bank at Morocco. Many have but little foundation in truth, but the following, I have every reason to believe, is an actual fact. During the time the bank was supposed to be in operation, the town of Bradford (now Monon) was the railway station nearest to Rensselaer. The railroad line extended north to Michigan City. A stage coach from Rensselaer met the north-bound afternoon train at Bradford and then returned to Rensselaer, so that most of the return trip through a very lonesome region had to be made after night.

One afternoon five men got off the train at Bradford, made their way to the hotel and called for supper. Two of them were attorneys from Lafayette going over to Rensselaer to attend to some legal matters. Two of the

others were citizens from Rensselaer—one an attorney and the other a doctor. These four were well known to each other, in fact old acquaintances. Also, all of them were well known to me. The other was a stranger, and although he ate supper at the same table, he seemed to keep as far away from the others as possible. It was noticed that he kept a small satchel on his lap all the time while eating supper. This, and a few remarks he made to the landlord in regard to the location of Morocco and the manner of getting there, satisfied one of the party at least that the stranger's objective point was the Bank of America at Morocco. He communicated his suspicions to the rest of the company. After supper the hack drove up and all got in. After a few miles had been traveled, by a preconcerted arrangement, the two Lafayette gentlemen commenced an attack on the two citizens of Rensselaer for the bold and terrible system of outlawry allowed to exist in their county, especially in the neighborhood of Morocco. They cited many cases of murder and horse-stealing and called atten-

tion to the gang of counterfeiters said to exist in that neighborhood. The Rensselaer gentlemen defended themselves as best they could from these charges, claiming that they were no more responsible for violations of law in their county than the gentlemen from Lafayette were for crimes committed in Tippecanoe county. These charges and counter-charges were kept up until late at night, when Rensselaer was reached and all went to bed.

Early the next morning the livery-stable keeper was posted by one of the passengers of the night before, so when he was approached by our friend with the black satchel, he refused to take him to Morocco for less than thirty dollars, and asked for a guard of four men. He told the stranger that he (the stranger) would be held responsible for all loss or damage to team and wagon. About this time one of the fellow passengers of the night before called the stranger aside and told him he supposed his business at Morocco must be of the greatest importance, and, as a friend, he would advise him how to go there. In the first

place, it would never do for him to go there in the clothes he had on, for he would be almost certain to be murdered. He proposed letting the stranger have an old suit of clothes and a rifle, so that, in the disguise of a hunter, he might make his way on foot to Morocco and back, with at least some prospect of safety. Our friend thanked him for his kindness, went back to the hotel, and in a short time the hack for Bradford drove up and he secured passage for that point. And the bank at Morocco was thereby saved at least one demand for specie.

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY

PRIOR to 1834, the northern part of the state of Indiana was unorganized territory. The legislature of the state, meeting the latter part of that year, passed an act for the organization of fourteen new counties. Included in this number were the counties of Newton and Jasper. The boundaries of Jasper county were defined as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of section 33, town 24, range 6, west; thence west to the state line; thence north thirty miles; thence east on the line dividing towns 28 and 29, to the northeast corner of section 4, town 28, range 6, west; thence south thirty miles to the place of beginning.

This embraced all of what is now Benton county, twelve miles off of the south side of the present Newton county, and also a portion of

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY 55

the territory of the present county of Jasper. The county of Newton was described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of township 29, range 5, west; thence west to the state line; thence north thirty miles; thence east on the line dividing towns 33 and 34, to the northeast corner of town 33, range 5, west; thence south thirty miles, to the place of beginning.

This embraced all the present counties of Newton and Jasper lying north of the line dividing towns 28 and 29, and also a portion of the territory now included in the counties of Lake and Porter.

In 1836 Porter county was organized, and Lake county in 1837, taking from Newton county all the territory north of the Kankakee river. In 1840 the present county of Benton was organized. A year or two prior to that time Jasper county had been reorganized, and the remaining portion of Newton county becoming by that act a part of Jasper county, the

original county of Newton passed out of existence, and remained so for a little more than twenty years.

In 1857 it became known that an effort was being made by parties owning large tracts of land in the north part of the county to form a new county out of the north part of Jasper county, with the county seat to be located on the Kankakee river. It became evident to the citizens of the western portion of the county that if they allowed the scheme to be carried out, their prospects for a new county would be forever hopeless, as there is a constitutional provision prohibiting the formation of a new county of a less area than four hundred square miles, or reducing any old county to a less area; and although the western half of Jasper county was hardly ready to assume the responsibilities of a separate county government, the residents believed that if they waited too long the north and south partition would be made and all of what is now Newton county would continue to be relatively outlying territory, so far as the seats of government were concerned.

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY 57

A meeting of the citizens of Jasper county living west of the line dividing ranges 7 and 8 was called at the town of Morocco, at which time it was resolved to proceed at once to circulate a petition to the commissioners of Jasper county, asking them to set off a new county, to be known as Beaver. Afterward, but at the same meeting, on motion of Thomas R. Barker, the name was changed to Newton, carrying down to history the friendship of Jasper and Newton, as related by Weams in his "Life of General Marion."

The petition was signed by nearly every voter in the west half of Jasper, and at the September term, 1857, was presented to the commissioners for their action. Naturally, the petition was opposed by the citizens of the other part of the county and, after about two days of skirmishing, the petition was dismissed on the ground that some of the names had been attached to the petition before the law authorizing a division had taken effect. The petition was rejected on Tuesday afternoon. That same night a meeting was held at the school

house in Morocco. Copies of the petition were hastily prepared and each one, as soon as ready, was delivered to a horseman who was to ride all night, covering his assigned part of the territory and collecting signatures. The work of circulating the petitions was continued next day and the horsemen met by appointment next night at what was known as the Salem school house, which stood a half-mile east of the present station of Julian. Within twenty-four hours, these energetic workers had canvassed the whole territory and brought in a petition representing an overwhelming majority of all the citizens.

On Thursday we went to Rensselaer to present the new petition. The commissioners had adjourned the evening before, to meet the next morning at nine o'clock, but by some means they got wind of what was coming and two of the commissioners failed to return until after the court was adjourned by legal limitation. John Lyons, one of the commissioners, remained there all the balance of the week. It is but justice to one of the commissioners, Sam-

uel Sparling, to say that I went out to his home during the day and found him confined to his bed by illness. The other commissioner was reported to have received word that his wife had been taken sick and needed his attention.

At the December term, 1857, certain parties offered a counter-petition, striking off the territory along the Kankakee river, intending to hold that as a preventive against any action in favor of striking off the new county of Newton.

On the first day of the term all parties were on hand, the county of Newton being represented by Silas Johnson, John Andrews, Zechariah Spitler, John Ade and several others. The opposition was led by Robert Milroy and L. A. Cole. After a short time spent in consultation, the case was continued until Thursday. After a conference, the friends of Newton county determined, as the best line of procedure, to go into the territory asking to be set off as a new county along the Kankakee river and, if possible, secure signatures to a remonstrance against such action. This was so far

successful that quite a majority of all the voters residing in that territory signed the remonstrance. After considerable argument for and against the petition, the remonstrance was presented, and with but little further discussion the petition was dismissed. Thereupon the petition for Newton county was presented December 7, 1857. After some time spent in hearing the argument for and against said petition, the prayer of the petitioners was granted. Zechariah Spitler, John Darroch and David Creek were appointed a committee to lay out and establish the boundaries of the proposed new county.

An appeal was taken to the circuit court, which overruled the decision of the commissioners and granted an injunction restraining them from entering the report of the committee appointed to establish the boundaries of said Newton county upon their records.

An appeal was thereupon taken to the supreme court by the defeated parties. The matter rested there until November, 1859, when the supreme court reversed the ruling of

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY 61

the lower court. On December 8, 1859, the commissioners of Jasper county made the final order on their records, defining the boundaries of the new county of Newton.

The first public recognition of the existence of Newton county took place at the February term of the Jasper county circuit court. I had been selected to act as a juror at this term of the court, and, on the morning of the second day of the term, I was present with other jurors. We were told to stand up and be sworn. I then stated to the court, Judge Charles H. Test, that before taking the oath I wanted to make the statement that I did not think I was qualified to act as a juror. The judge asked my reason for making the statement, and I replied I did not think I was a resident of Jasper county. The judge then inquired where I lived, and I told him I lived in Morocco. He replied:

“Is that not a part of Jasper county?”

I said to him, “I think not.”

He then asked me to give my reasons for making such a statement. I said, “It is my un-

derstanding that the supreme court has rendered its decision by which the western part of Jasper county, in which the town of Morocco is situated, has been stricken off from Jasper county, thus forming a new county."

The judge then asked the clerk if there was any such decision on file in his office and if so to go and get it, which the clerk did. After a little time spent by the judge in reading the decision of the supreme court, he said: "Mr. Ade, you may stand aside. And if there are any other jurors from the part of Jasper county which has been stricken off, they also may consider themselves discharged."

In March, 1860, Thomas R. Barker was appointed by Governor Willard as organizing sheriff for the new county, and as such organizing sheriff he issued a call for the election of officers for the new county. In accordance with said call, about the 10th of April, 1860, the following persons were declared duly elected to the several offices, as follows:

Zechariah Spitler, clerk; Alexander Sharp, auditor; Samuel McCullough, treasurer;

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY 63

John Ade, recorder; Adam Shideler, surveyor; Elijah Shriver, sheriff; William Russell, Michael Coffelt and Thomas R. Barker, commissioners.

On April 21, 1860, the officers elected to the several offices in Newton county met in the town of Kent, which had been selected as the county seat by the three commissioners appointed by Governor Ashbel P. Willard for that purpose. These commissioners were Livingston Dunlap, Joseph Allen and Samuel H. Owen. After performing the duties assigned them, they made their report to the governor on March 15, 1860.

On April 21, 1860, the formal proceedings were as follows:

Thomas R. Barker, organizing sheriff, then and there administered the oath of office to William Russell and Michael Coffelt, as commissioners of said county. The said Thomas R. Barker then declared the board of commissioners duly qualified to act as commissioners of said county, and called them together for the purpose of doing such business as might

be brought before them. The said board, being now in session, approved the bond of Zechariah Spitler as clerk of the circuit court in and for said county. Thomas R. Barker, as organizing sheriff, then administered the oath of office to Zechariah Spitler and declared the office of clerk of the circuit court duly established.

The commissioners then approved the bond of Alexander Sharp, as auditor of said county, who received the oath of office by the clerk of the circuit court. The said office of auditor was then declared by said sheriff to be duly established.

The commissioners then approved the bond of Samuel McCullough as treasurer of said county; also of John Ade as recorder of said county; also of Adam W. Shideler as surveyor of said county; also of Elijah Shriver as sheriff of said county. The clerk of the circuit court then administered the oath to said Samuel McCullough, John Ade, Adam W. Shideler and Elijah Shriver. The said Thomas R. Barker then declared that the said officers be-

ORGANIZING NEWTON COUNTY 65

ing duly qualified, the said offices were duly established for said county of Newton.

Thomas R. Barker, having resigned the office of organizing sheriff and his successor having qualified, then took the oath of office as a commissioner of said Newton county.

The commissioners then adjourned to meet the following Monday morning at their first regular term, at which time the routine business of the county was taken up.

STORMS ON THE PRAIRIE

THE old settler always has the special privilege of talking about the weather of bygone days. Perhaps the weather itself has not changed since fifty years ago, but the conditions under which we were compelled to face the storms have been entirely altered.

It is hard at the present day to realize the contrast between the open prairie as we first knew it and the stretches of farming country as we see them to-day, with their groves, hedges, houses, fences and other serviceable wind-breaks. Before settlements were established outside the timber, there was nothing to check the force of the storms, especially the windstorms, which swept across the open prairie for many miles without trees, buildings or fences to check their violence. Travelers crossing these vast unsettled plains were some-

times overtaken by storms, especially in the winter, and often would suffer great privations and even loss of life.

In the winter of 1850-51 a man by the name of Williams started from the town of Bunkum to cross the prairie to the Beaver timber, a distance of some ten miles. He was overtaken by one of these storms and became lost. He failed to reach his destination. His friends, learning that he had started across the prairie, organized searching parties which moved out in all directions, but without success. His body was not found until the snow melted in the spring, and it was then discovered some four or five miles west of the point he was intending to make.

For many years I had been hearing of similar cases, and one especially interesting, but I had been unable to get the exact facts in the case. A short time before the death of John Myers I interviewed him and requested him to tell me what he knew about the story I had heard. He said he was acquainted with some of the facts in the case but referred me to Mrs.

Jacob Kenoyer, who, he said, could tell me all about it.

I interviewed Mrs. Kenoyer shortly after and found she had a very vivid recollection of all the circumstances. In fact, her brother had been the principal sufferer and it is from my recollection of what she told me, and also from a narrative published in a history of Iroquois county, Illinois, that I am enabled to offer the following facts.

In 1836, James Frame, the father of Mrs. Jacob Kenoyer, was living near the present city of Onarga. In December of that year, Thomas Frame, his son, had sold some cattle and from the proceeds of such sale, after riding across the prairie to Danville, Illinois, he entered eighty acres of land in section 15, township 26, range 14. The transaction took place December 19, 1836. On the following day, in company with a man by the name of James H. Hildreth, who was also on horseback and going in the same direction, he left Danville for his home. They journeyed along together during the day through a misty rain

and there was considerable snow on the ground. About four o'clock in the afternoon a gale of wind, sharp and piercing, came sweeping over the prairie and in a few moments clouds overspread the sky. Within a short time the men were moving across a sheet of ice. They were proceeding on the Ash Grove road when this change in the weather took place. They reached Fountain Creek about sundown, finding the creek overflowed and ice forming along the banks, making it impossible to cross. They decided to return to the house of a man named Bicknell, but had not gone far when darkness overtook them. The cold growing more and more intense, the labor and difficulty of travel kept on increasing and the prospect of reaching any house became more and more gloomy, until it seemed altogether hopeless. They realized they must do something or perish. They agreed to kill their horses. Hildreth was to kill Frame's horse first, and when that became cold, then Frame was to kill Hildreth's. Accordingly, Frame's horse was killed by severing a vein in its neck.

The carcass was opened and both men got their arms and legs into the carcass of the dead horse. Frame survived until nearly daylight, when he expired. Hildreth, although badly frozen, as soon as it was daylight, started for help. He soon discovered a house, but before he reached it he came to a stream three hundred yards wide, with the current deep and running swiftly and full of ice. A man by the name of Burson lived in the house on the other side of the stream but was powerless to help him. Hildreth, however, went up the stream and finally found a place where he crossed. Burson went with Hildreth to Asa Thomas's, a mile south of Milford, and gave notice of what had happened.

Clement Thomas, David and Benjamin Mersham, Levi Williams and Amos Wiley set out for Burson's. Arriving there, they found the stream frozen over, and from there they followed Hildreth's tracks and were soon at the spot which witnessed the terrible sufferings of that night. Frame's body was taken to Burson's and the following day word was sent to

the father of the deceased, who on the second day thereafter removed the body of his son to his own home. The funeral was conducted by Amos Wiley, one of the parties above mentioned, he being the circuit rider of the Methodist church.

Robert Williams, living near Milford, knew that Burson had no conveniences for caring for Hildreth and sent a team the next day to convey him to the Williams home. There he stayed for several weeks, his mother coming to care for him as soon as the news could reach her by mail. Doctor Hawes amputated all his toes and all his fingers and thumbs, except one finger on each hand.

While writing upon the subject of cold weather, it may be well to state that there have been two memorable cold and stormy days in the history of Newton county. One of these days was January 1, 1864. The other was February 14, 1866. There have been colder days, probably, than either of these, but the days above named were not only cold but accompanied by snow and high winds. It is safe

to say that both days may be classed in the list of regular blizzards.

So far as January 1, 1864, is concerned, I was absent from home at the time. I had started about three o'clock in the morning from Stevenson, Alabama, for Nashville, Tennessee, riding all day in a freight car in company with William Graves. We had been to Chattanooga, he to look up and care for his son, Lawrence, while I went to do the same for George W. Dearduff, both wounded at the battle of Missionary Ridge. While we were quite a distance south, the cold was so intense and the storm so severe that it is almost a wonder we survived the trip. The next day we took a train for Louisville and had to wait over there for two days on account of the floating ice in the river. The ferry boats were afraid to cross and at that time no bridges spanned the river. We finally reached Kentland on the first train to get through in four days. While no one was reported to have frozen to death at that time, there were several persons who died shortly after from the effects

of exposure, and there was a heavy loss in stock and poultry. Many who had started away from their homes that morning, expecting to return in the evening, were compelled to seek shelter at the first opportunity, there to remain until the storm had abated, while the folks at home kept up lights and fires all night awaiting their return.

February 14, 1866, was another day long to be remembered. Up to about nine o'clock in the morning it was a bright and pleasant day, with enough snow on the ground to make fine sledding. Many started out that morning expecting to get a good day's work done and be home again by night, or sooner perhaps. About nine o'clock the wind shifted to the north and it commenced snowing and drifting. Within a very short time all who could do so sought shelter. Among those who were out that day were some six or eight parties with teams and sleds from Morocco, who had come to Kent for lumber for Daniel Ash. He was building a new house to take the place of one destroyed by fire a short time before. The

storm struck them about the time they were crossing the Iroquois river. They succeeded, however, in reaching Kentland, although suffering severely from the cold. They put their teams in the stable, where they remained for two or three days, and then all returned with empty sleds as the roads were drifted so full of snow they were impassable for loaded teams. John Goddard and Isaac Smart, two of the number, the next day after the storm, left their sleds and one team and each one riding a horse, they started for Morocco, finally reaching there safely. There was an urgent reason for John D. Goddard taking the risk he did, as he was to be married that night to Miss Mary J. Kessler, and Isaac Smart was to act as best man on that occasion.

About the worst condition arose from children being at the school-houses. The morning being so pleasant, there was at least the usual attendance, and when it came time for dismissing school in the afternoon the storm was so severe that had the children started for home they certainly would have perished on the

road. The teachers therefore kept up the fires and stayed with them until their parents or some of the neighbors came to take care of them. Some cases were reported of teachers and pupils remaining in the school-house all night.

I had a little experience that day. William had gone to school in the old school-house, located on the lot on which W. F. Porter now lives—just across the street from the old United Brethren and Christian church. Mr. and Mrs. John Cunningham were teaching the school. It was nearly three blocks from where I lived. About the time for school to be dismissed I went after him. We started home, hand in hand. We ran as fast as we could all the way, but when we reached home his hands were nearly frozen and we had to use snow and water before going to the fire to warm them. Mr. Cunningham remained at the school-house with the children until the parents came for them.

The winter of 1884-85 was a very cold winter. There were thirty-three days that winter

when the thermometer stood below zero; December, 1884, had seven days; January, 1885, had eleven days; February, 1885, had fourteen days; and March, the same year, had one day. January 22d was the coldest day of the winter, the thermometer standing at thirty-three degrees below zero. December 19th was close to it, registering thirty-one below, but these were not stormy days.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

AT the time the county of Newton was organized, and while it was a part of Jasper county, it consisted of five townships, viz.: Iroquois, Jackson, Lake, Beaver and Washington. Iroquois township embraced all of towns 27 and 28, range 8, and one mile off the west side of towns 27 and 28, range 9. Jackson township embraced all of towns 29, 30, 31 and 32, range 8. Lake township included all of town 30, ranges 9 and 10. Beaver township embraced towns 29 and 30, ranges 9 and 10. Washington township embraced towns 27 and 28, ranges 9 and 10, except a strip one mile in width on the east side of said towns 27 and 28, range 9, which had been stricken off and added to Iroquois township.

The first business transacted after the organization of the commissioners' court was the following, as shown by the records:

“Monday, April 23, 1860. Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment and the first business in order was the petition of Ralph Swiggett and others for the division of Washington township, so that all north of the Iroquois river remain as Washington township and all south of said river may be formed into a new township. Ordered by the commissioners that said township be divided, and that the name of the new township be called Jefferson, and that the boundaries of the township be as follows: Commencing at the Benton county line, at the southeast corner of section 35, town 27, range 9, thence north on the section line to the middle of the Iroquois river. Thence westwardly, down the middle of said river to the west line of Newton county. Thence south on the west line of said county to the south line of said county. Thence east on the line dividing Newton and Benton counties, to the place of beginning.”

It will be noticed that at this time Jefferson township lacked one mile of running to the line dividing ranges 8 and 9. The division of

the county into townships was not further disturbed until March 5, 1862, when John Franklin presented the petition of Thomas Griffith and others, asking to be set off from Iroquois township into the civil township of Washington. It was ordered that said petition be granted and that the civil townships of the county should be as follows:

“That said civil township No. 1, Iroquois, shall consist of towns 27 and 28, range 8; that Jackson township No. 2 shall consist of towns 29, 30, 31 and 32, range 8; and that township of Lake, No. 3, shall consist of town 31, ranges 9 and 10; that Beaver township, No. 4, shall consist of towns 29 and 30, ranges 9 and 10; that the civil township of Washington, No. 5, shall consist of town 28, ranges 9 and 10, lying on the north side of the Iroquois river; that the civil township of Jefferson, No. 6, shall consist of town 27, ranges 9 and 10, lying south of the Iroquois river.”

“Tuesday morning, December 2, 1862. Z. T. Wheaton presented the petition of himself and others to be set off into a civil township

from the civil township of Beaver. Ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that the said township be called McClellan, and that it consist of the following territory, to wit: all of town 30, ranges 9 and 10."

Afterward, on December 6, 1865, on petition of R. C. Currens, Blake Wilson, F. C. Pierce and thirty others, Grant township was organized by striking off of Iroquois township all of township 27, range 8, and that "A. L. Martin be appointed to act as trustee of said township."

March 9, 1871. Philip Miller and others presented a petition for a division of Jackson township, said division to be made on the line dividing towns 29 and 30, range 8, setting off towns 30 and 31 and fractional part of 32, range 8, into a new civil township to be known as Colfax township. Ordered by the court that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, and that there be a new civil township formed embracing all the territory in townships 30 and 31 and fractional part of 32, range 8, to be called

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION 81

Colfax township, No. 9. And that Philip Miller be appointed trustee of said Colfax township.

June 8, 1872. M. D. Kay and fourteen others presented a petition for the division of Colfax township, to be divided at the town line, dividing towns 30 and 31, range 8, to be called Lincoln township. The commissioners not being satisfied with the petition it was continued until the next term.

September 2, 1872. It was ordered that the prayer of the above petitioners be granted and that the territory be embraced in the following bounds, to wit: commencing at the southeast corner of section 36, town 31, range 8. Thence north on the line dividing Newton and Jasper counties, to the center of the Kankakee river. Thence westwardly following the meanderings of said river to a point where the range line, dividing ranges 8 and 9, crosses the said river. Thence south along said line, dividing ranges 8 and 9, to the town line dividing townships 30 and 31. Thence east along said township line to the place of beginning. To be

known by the name of Lincoln township, Newton county, Indiana, No. 10. And that Aaron Wilson be, and is hereby appointed trustee of said Lincoln township.”

This completes the organization of the several townships in the county, ten in number, viz.: Iroquois, No. 1; Jackson, No. 2; Lake, No. 3; Beaver, No. 4; Washington, No. 5; Jefferson, No. 6; McClellan, No. 7; Grant, No. 8; Colfax, No. 9; and Lincoln, No. 10.

POPULATION

NEWTON COUNTY has maintained a steady growth in population ever since the first census of 1860. In recent decades the towns have shown an aggregate increase, while the purely agricultural districts, such as Washington township, have shown some decrease in population. Since the farm lands have been drained and can be worked at all seasons, and labor-saving machinery has been introduced, fewer laborers are needed in the agricultural regions. Many of the older residents have moved into the towns and the younger farmers have sought the opportunities of a newer country.

Also, as land is drained and reclaimed, the population has become more evenly distributed throughout the county.

The census figures offered herewith were

obtained from the Department of Commerce and Labor through the courtesy of the Hon. E. D. Crumpacker. The townships are given in alphabetical order:

BEAVER TOWNSHIP

(Including the town of Morocco)

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 1860 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 501 |
| 1870 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 637 |
| 1880 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 898 |
| 1890 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1,052 |
| 1900 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1,600 |
| 1910 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1,524 |

The first census of Morocco was taken in 1890, when it had a population of 397. In 1900 it was 920 and in 1910, 927.

In 1863 a part of Beaver township was set off to form McClellan township.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP

As indicated on a succeeding page, Colfax was taken in 1871 from part of Jackson and in

POPULATION

85

1872 part of it was taken to form Lincoln. The first separate census returns were obtained in 1880.

| | | |
|------|-----------|-----|
| 1880 | | 150 |
| 1890 | | 128 |
| 1900 | | 271 |
| 1910 | | 297 |

GRANT TOWNSHIP

(Including the town of Goodland)

This township was taken from Iroquois in 1865, so that the first separate census was taken in 1870.

| | | |
|------|-----------|-------|
| 1870 | | 699 |
| 1880 | | 1,508 |
| 1890 | | 1,624 |
| 1900 | | 1,716 |
| 1910 | | 1,762 |

The first report on Goodland, in 1880, showed 620; 1890, 889; 1900, 1,205; 1910, 1,105.

THE BRANDON TRIAL

ONE day in the summer of 1860 I heard that a murder had been committed in Jackson township and that the prisoner had been brought to Kent, he having been bound over by the examining justice. At that time the county officers were in temporary quarters in a store building fronting the railroad, near the present site of the Fletcher blacksmith shop. I went from my office to the room in which the prisoner was said to be under guard, and there I found three of my old neighbors and friends—Elijah Shriver, Calvin Hough and Samuel Brandon. From my knowledge of the men, I could not believe it possible that any one of them would be guilty of the crime charged, and I was so much surprised that I believe I left the room without speaking to any of them.

Shortly afterward I learned that Samuel Brandon was the one charged with the crime. He was taken to Lafayette and confined in jail to await the action of the grand jury. On Monday, August 27, 1860, agreeable to an order issued by Charles H. Test, judge of the 12th judicial circuit, the court met for the first time in Newton county, at Kent—Charles H. Test, judge; Zechariah Spitler, clerk; Elijah Shriver, sheriff; John L. Miller, prosecutor. After attending to some preliminary business the following named parties were admitted as attorneys to practice in this court: William D. Lee, Albert G. Brown, George W. Spitler and Robert H. Milroy.

It was ordered by the court that Elijah Shriver, sheriff, go to Lafayette and obtain the person of Samuel Brandon from the jailor of Tippecanoe county and bring him before the court now in session. The following persons were sworn to serve as grand jurors for the term: Ransom Elijah, William Harriett, Allen Park, Henry Rider, Young Thompson, Martin Crown, George Stoner, Samuel Bard,

John Smith, Nathaniel Ford and James Cowgill, who, after due deliberation, did on the 29th day of August, 1860, return an indictment against Samuel Brandon for murder.

Following is from the record: "Thursday, August 30, 1860—Court met pursuant to adjournment. Comes now John L. Miller, prosecuting the pleas of the state. Comes also the defendant in person and by Mace, Lee & Spittler, his attorneys. Comes also a jury, to wit: Nathaniel West, John Padgett, James W. Dodson, John Smith, Josiah Howenstine, Amaziah Board, Hugh Warren, Thomas J. Smith, George Herriman, Joseph Louthain, Charles Prue and Peter Shaub."

The facts brought out at the trial were substantially these: Samuel Brandon and David Handley were neighbors, living in Jackson township. Handley had a cornfield near the residence of Brandon, and one of Brandon's hogs got into the corn. In driving the hog out, Handley threw a stone at the animal and broke its leg. This irritated Brandon, who came running out to where Handley was, and, after

a few words, demanded that Handley get on his knees and beg his pardon. Handley refused and Brandon shot him, causing almost instant death.

The jury, after hearing the evidence, argument of counsel and charge of the court, returned its verdict into court as follows:

“We, the jury, find the defendant, Samuel Brandon, not guilty as to the first and third counts of the indictment; and guilty as to the second; and that he be imprisoned at hard labor in the state’s prison for life.

“NATHANIEL WEST, Foreman.”

Whereupon the court did, on the following day, pronounce judgment against Brandon in accordance with the verdict of the jury and sentenced him to punishment at hard labor in the state’s prison during his life.

Brandon was not what you might call a bad man, but was possessed of an ungovernable temper which brought sorrow and death to an innocent family and long years of confinement

and remorse to himself. In his case was proven the truthfulness of the statement, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

During the progress of the trial Brandon seemed to be perfectly indifferent as to the result, exhibiting no regret or sorrow for his deed. All those present at the trial remarked on this phase of his character. However, one evening during the progress of the trial, after the proceedings for the day were closed, he and I were by ourselves in a corner of the room, no others within hearing distance. He seemed to unburden himself. He told me he would give anything he had if he could only shed a tear, that he seemed to be burning up inside and there was no way by which he could get relief. This satisfied me that we often misjudge others by seeing only that which is visible from the outside, not knowing what is going on within their consciences.

In accordance with the sentence of the court, Brandon was taken to the state's prison at

Michigan City, where he remained some fourteen years, when he was pardoned by the governor and returned to his old home. Here he died several years later.

SOME EARLY SETTLERS

BEFORE the time when railroads began to open new territory for settlement, it generally took three classes of citizens to open up and develop a country. The first class was made up of what might be called squatters—they were the adventurous frontiersmen who came before any lands were regularly offered for sale. They lived by hunting, fishing and trapping, and moved on farther west when the second class came in and purchased the land from the government at the uniform price of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. This second class generally held on to their land for a few years, making, as they supposed, a good, big profit on their investment, when they would sell out to the third class, who would put up permanent improvements and become the fixed residents of the country.

SOME EARLY SETTLERS 97

About the time I arrived in Newton county, this region was beginning to fill up with the settlers who were to become permanent residents and carry forward the work of development and improvement.

The following is a list of names, as they come to me, of persons who were living in this territory prior to its organization as Newton county, in 1860, with the date of the arrival of each:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| John Lyons | 1831 |
| Aaron Lyons | 1832 |
| Joshua Timmons | 1835 |
| Jacob Kenoyer | 1834 |
| John Myers, Sr. | 1836 |
| Henry Rider | 1836 |
| Ransom Elijah | 1836 |
| Philip Earl | 1837 |
| John Murphy | 1838 |
| Otey Anderson | 1838 |
| Zechariah Spitler | 1838 |
| Amos White | 1839 |
| Daniel Mock | 1839 |
| Samuel Lyons | 1840 |
| Thomas R. Barker | 1842 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| John S. Roberts | 1843 |
| Daniel Dearduff | 1844 |
| Benjamin Roadruck | 1844 |
| Thomas Starkey | 1844 |
| John Whiteakker | 1847 |
| Thomas Peck | 1847 |
| Jacob Ash. . . . | 1842 |
| Dempsey Johnson | 1848 |
| Andrew Doty | 1849 |
| Ephraim Bridgeman | 1846 |
| Levi Bridgeman | 1846 |
| Silas Johnson | 1846 |
| Washington Dearduff | 1844 |
| Robert Archibald | 1846 |
| William Archibald | 1850 |
| W. C. Lester | 1850 |
| Joseph Chizum | 1850 |
| David Pulver | 1850 |
| William R. Handley | 1850 |
| James Dodson | 1850 |
| Charles Frankenberger | 1851 |
| Joseph Staton | 1851 |
| Daniel Ash | 1851 |
| John Darroch | 1851 |
| James Kay | 1851 |
| Edgar Hawkins | 1852 |
| James Martin | 1852 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Isaac V. Speck | 1852 |
| David Creek | 1852 |
| John Franklin | 1852 |
| John Padgett | 1852 |
| A. W. Bebout | 1852 |
| John Smart | 1852 |
| Morris Lyons | 1852 |
| David Hess | 1853 |
| A. V. Gard | 1853 |
| Joseph Law | 1853 |
| Young Thompson | 1853 |
| Joseph Kennedy | 1853 |
| Joshua Ponsler | 1854 |
| James Archibald | 1854 |
| Christian Jessen | 1854 |
| Philip Brown | 1854 |
| Andrew Hess | 1855 |
| George M. Herriman | 1855 |
| Ezra B. Jones | 1855 |
| Amos Clark | 1855 |
| Thomas Griffith | 1855 |
| Charles T. Triplett | 1856 |
| Jacob Brenner | 1856 |
| James Pierce | 1856 |
| George W. White | 1856 |
| Bluford Light | 1856 |
| William Russell | 1856 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|------|
| William Littlejohn | . | . | . | 1856 |
| John F. Johnson | . | . | . | 1857 |
| C. A. Wood | . | . | . | 1857 |
| William Best | . | . | . | 1857 |
| A. J. Kent | . | . | . | 1858 |
| Abel Thompson | . | . | . | 1859 |

ROADS AND MARKETS

WHEN roads were first made in this country they went by the most direct routes from one point to another, without regard to section lines. Travel was seldom guided by any roadway, the traveler steering for some landmark, such as the cut-off for the crossing of the Iroquois river, indicated by a gap in the timber at what is now known as the Strole bridge, or else the lone trees standing northwest of where the town of Brook is now located. The "north timber" and Pilot Grove also showed prominently from the prairie.

But, as the country settled up, roads began to be located, usually on established lines, such as section or quarter-section lines. After a time, as the travel was confined to lanes, the roads in the spring of the year would become almost impassable, and it was thought at the

time that one of the great drawbacks to the improvement of this whole region was the admitted fact that we could never have any permanently good roads on account of not having, within easy reach, any material, such as gravel or stone, with which to construct good roads.

At this time (1910) Newton county stands in the front rank for the number of miles of good stone roads within its borders. And although it has cost a large sum of money to make these roads, they have added much to the comfort and pleasure of life. After they are once built, no one would have them removed for many times their cost. The number of miles of good, finished stone roads is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Jefferson township . . . | 36 miles |
| Grant township . . . | 33 miles |
| Iroquois township . . . | 28 miles |
| Beaver township . . . | 23 miles |
| McClellan township . . . | 8 miles |
| Lake township . . . | 8 miles |
| Lincoln township . . . | 14 miles |

This makes a total of 150 miles at an average

cost of about two thousand dollars per mile. The old prairie roads in the fall of the year were, however, the model roads, and we will never have anything again to equal them for easy traveling. There was a yielding of the sod, so that a horse would not tire as he does on a hard road. Horses brought here in a lame condition, or with tender feet, would get entirely sound again in time.

Prior to the year 1853, at which time the railroad between Indianapolis and Lafayette was completed, and the Illinois Central began to run trains between Chicago and Kankakee, there would be in the fall of each year an immense amount of travel on the roads between Lafayette and Chicago, mostly farmers' teams hauling wheat to Chicago or coming back loaded with salt and groceries of all kinds, either for their own use or for the merchants who had purchased stocks of goods east and shipped the same to Chicago by way of the lakes. To accommodate this travel, camping-places, and, in several instances, "taverns," as they were then called, had been estab-

lished a few miles apart all the way between Lafayette and Chicago.

After leaving Lafayette the first would be Oxford, at that time the county-seat of Benton county. Parish Grove was the next point; then Sumner's Grove, between Mud Pine and Sugar Creek; then Bunkum, at which point there were two taverns, one on each side of the Iroquois river. The next was the Buck Horn tavern, located near where the present town of Donovan, Illinois, stands. This was kept for many years by the father of John Donovan, the latter now living at Watseka, Illinois, and one of its most prominent citizens. The next tavern was at the crossing of Beaver Creek, and the next was known as the Big Spring, about half-way between Beaver Creek and Momence. Then, on to Momence, at the crossing of the Kankakee river. The next general stopping-place was called Yellow Head Point, said to be named after an Indian who lived there, by the name of Yellow Head. The next point on the road was Blue Island, and then came Chicago, a distance of about one hun-

dred and thirty miles from Lafayette and taking six to eight days to make the trip.

I think it was in February, 1858, that John Darroch, John Smart, Daniel Ash, Elias Atkinson, myself, and possibly one or two others, each with a wagon loaded with twenty-five or thirty bushels of shelled corn in sacks, started from Morocco for Kankakee to dispose of the grain and bring back merchandise. The roads had been frozen enough to bear up our loads, but the weather had turned warm and the roads thawed quite rapidly during the day. When we reached the Kankakee river at Aroma (now Waldron) we could not cross below the dam. Above the dam the river was frozen over, but it was doubtful if the ice would bear up the team and load together. So we led the teams over and pulled the loads across by hand, and arrived at Kankakee some time after dark, putting up there for the night.

The next morning we disposed of our corn at twenty-four cents per bushel, laid in our supplies, and in the afternoon started for home. Owing to the fact that the warm wea-

ther had continued and it was considered unsafe to cross the Kankakee on the ice, we returned by way of Momence, where there was a bridge across the river. We spent our second night there. The next morning after breakfast we struck out for home. Elias Atkinson, however, had got up early and started out a couple of hours ahead of the rest of us. We had made but a few miles, however, when we caught up with him. He had started across a slough and had stopped on a big cake of ice—was afraid to go ahead and could not turn around to come back. So there he stood, waiting for the rest of the company to come up and relieve him, which we did, and he remained with the crowd the rest of the day.

We stopped to feed and eat our mid-day meal at what was known then as the outlet of Beaver Lake. In a wet time, Beaver Lake would overflow and the water run down through the willow prairie, emptying into Beaver Creek near the state line.

After dinner (I can not say just what it consisted of, but I have it stored away in my mem-

ory as one of the best meals I had tasted for a long time) we started for home, reaching there about night of the third day. At that time it was not thought the trip was anything strange or remarkable, but it is a fair illustration of the conditions under which this county began its history.

A FEW STORIES

OUR history, thus far, has consisted of rather dry statements of facts, and it may not be entirely out of place to rest a while and give a little spice to the story by reciting a few personal incidents in the lives and characters of some of the prominent citizens living in the neighborhood of Morocco during the time the writer was a resident of that place.

I presume every neighborhood has had some few men who, by reason of their peculiarities, were different from the common run of their associates; who, because of their talk and actions, deserve to be remembered. Morocco had its fair share of this interesting class of individuals. The country store was the meeting point, or clubroom, where they had opportunity to meet with others and give to a limited audience the benefit of their peculiar ideas on politics, religion, or whatever sub-

ject might be up for public discussion. If our legislatures, state and national, only had the knowledge and ability possessed by these country store assemblies, questions that often take them months to settle could be disposed of in a very short time. Many of the mistakes made by our army officers in the field could have been obviated, if the officers had taken the advice of these rural experts.

The first of these persons that comes to my mind at present is 'Squire Harrington, who lived in Jackson township, about four miles east of Morocco. He moved there about 1851 from Williamsport, Warren county, Indiana, where he had acted as justice of the peace for several years with great credit to himself as well as to his constituents. He had a fair common-school education, was a constant and persistent reader of the general news of the day, and kept well posted. His strong forte was to be ready with an answer to any question that might be put to him, and any one starting an argument with him seldom came out better than second best.

The following incident may be taken as a fair sample of his style of discussion. One day the store was nearly full of the best talent of the country. Among those present, besides the 'squire, was a Doctor Grigg, a man who had a very exalted idea of his own ability. The subject under discussion was the condition of things in Kansas as affected by the slavery question. The 'squire, in commenting on the action of the political parties on the slavery question in days gone by, made the remark that in 1844 both parties, whig and democratic, made their platforms halfway between earth and hell. The doctor, thinking to give the benefit of his theological knowledge, wanted to know, "Where is that place you call 'hell' located?"

The 'squire, puffing a little, short pipe, retorted, "What did you say?"

The doctor repeated the question.

The 'squire then said, "Why, do you belong to either of those parties?"

"Yes, sir; I profess to be a democrat, sir."

The 'squire replied, "In that case, it is use-

less to tell you anything about it, sir, as you'll find out soon enough."

Another time, the 'squire came into the store and was telling me about a political speech he had heard made by Al Bunch at the Collins school-house. He said to me: "Why, it was remarkable! I had no idea he was capable of such an effort. You would have been surprised to hear him. Why, he knows 'constitution,' 'amalgamation,' 'high heavens,' and lots of other big words that you would have no idea he knew anything about."

Still another time, he was telling me about his experience in going to mill. It was in the fall of 1857 or 1858. It was a very dry season, the streams being all dried up. Allen May, of Indianapolis, had a large bunch of cattle herding on the prairie where the town of Remington is now located. When the creek dried up, the cattle were driven to the Iroquois river for water, and when the river dried up they had to be taken to Beaver Lake so they could get water. It was so dry that we had to haul drinking water two miles. The grist-mills of

Momence and Texas were compelled to shut down. The 'squire, being out of breadstuff, shelled a sack of corn and went up about eight miles northeast of Rensselaer. In describing his experience he told how it took him all one day to get there in a little one-horse wagon. The mill was a horse-mill, and he said it was the prettiest little thing he ever saw. He said, "Why, it would just hop off one grain on to another so quick, it was fun to watch it."

Living close to the 'squire was a man by the name of Ward, who, in a fit of passion, put a load of shot into the back of one of the Kennedy boys, while the latter was passing the Ward residence on horseback. Ward was arrested and at the next session of the circuit court he was tried. Harrington was a witness and when called upon to give his evidence, he said: "I don't know as I can tell anything that would be good evidence in this court, but as I've had a long ride through deep mud to get here, would say I understand Ward shot the Kennedy boy, putting a whole load of shot in his back. And after he had done it, he played

crazy—tried to kill himself by running his head against a fence-stake. His brains ran out and Doctor Richards was sent for. He filled up the cavity with corn meal and they do say that Ward has more sense now than he ever had. This is all I know about the case.”

Another citizen of Morocco, deserving a passing notice, was Samuel Hurst. In many respects he was an entirely different type of man from the 'squire. He was a consistent member of the Methodist church. He was naturally full of fun and a joke on himself seemed to do him more good than to get one on somebody else. His habit of joking was carried to such an extreme sometimes as to demand discipline in the eyes of some of the good brethren who thought it was a grievous sin even to smile.

During the time Hurst lived in Morocco he kept the only hotel in the town. A part of the time he would work at his trade—that of carpenter. At this time the Methodists were building a frame church on the ground some two or three lots east of where the present

Kennedy store stands. At this particular time Hurst was working alone on the church building, when a man drove up in a buggy, stopped, and called out to him to inquire where he would find the hotel. Mr. Hurst pointed it out to him, when the stranger asked: "By the way, what kind of a man is the fellow that keeps the hotel?"

"Well," Hurst replied, "I don't like to talk about my neighbors, but the real facts of the case are, he is no better than he ought to be."

The stranger said, "That's about what I thought, for a man down the road told me he was a d—d old rascal!"

With that he drove on to the hotel, inquired for the landlord, and when informed he was working on the church, the man didn't have the "nerve" to face the music, so drove on to find another stopping-place. Mr. Hurst got more good from telling this story on himself than he would have derived from several times the amount of the man's hotel bill.

Before moving to Morocco, Mr. Hurst lived on a farm near the line dividing Newton

and Jasper counties. This farm he traded for a stock of goods belonging to Benjamin Hinkle, of Rensselaer. He operated two stores, one in Rensselaer and one in Morocco, closing up the business in about two years. In the meantime he had trusted many of his neighbors and whenever he had failed to collect accounts due him, he took notes giving the parties more time in which to make payment. In this debtor class was a man owing him thirty dollars, whom we will call Jake—because that was his name. After a few years had passed he met Jake one day and said to him: “Jake, here’s your note. It’s all paid off and you might as well have it.”

“Why, Mr. Hurst,” replied Jake, “I never paid you anything on the note!”

“Oh, yes, you have, Jake. It’s paid off, so here, take your note.”

Jake, with a look of surprise, said to him, “I’d like to know when and how it was paid off?”

“Well,” said Hurst, “I’ll tell you. You know, Jake, every time you promised me you

would pay the note I just gave you credit for one dollar and—well, here it is and it's paid off."

At one time there was living in Jackson township a man by the name of Jerry C., who was red-headed and very impulsive. Each winter during the revival services in the church he would join, and he would then want permission to preach. But they put him off from time to time, and usually, as soon as the weather got warm and the meetings closed, he would fall from grace and be ready to commence again the next winter. On one of these occasions during which he renewed his vows, they gave their consent for him to preach. Announcement was made that he would preach in a certain school-house the next Sunday. I was not present to hear him, so will have to give the facts as my informant related them to me. This was an old lady, about seventy-five years of age, by the name of Ellett—the mother of Martin and Steve Ellett, old citizens of Jackson township. She came into the store and after a while asked me if I was up to

hear Jerry preach on Sunday. I told her I was not there. She said: "Well, you'd ought to have been there, you'd have been surprised. Why, he done lots better than you'd 'a' thought he could. He really done first-rate for a man with neither religion nor education!"

In the ridges north of Morocco were a few families who got their living by making rails and clapboards, sometimes getting a day's work in the settlement. Among them was a family living in a dugout in a sand-bank. It was a very sorry excuse for a habitation. They had one small room with dirt floor, and a stovepipe running through the covering of puncheon, hay and sand. They had quite a family of small children, with scarcely any clothes, and often not more than half enough to eat. To make conditions worse, the mother of the family had been sick for some time and, as might reasonably have been expected, the sickness ended in death. I met the stepmother of the dead woman the next day—an old lady about seventy-five years of age. With tears streaming down her cheeks she remarked to

me: "Well, poor Nancy's gone! I hope she's gone to the good place."

All at once she brightened up and, with almost a smile on her countenance, ended by saying: "Well, anyhow, it couldn't be any worse for her."

John Brennesholtz and Madison Collins both came to this country at an early day and became what in that day was considered tolerably close neighbors. However, they failed utterly to live together as neighbors should, trying to promote peace and good will, one toward the other. On the contrary, they were continually mixed up in lawsuits—sometimes over matters too small to talk about. Generally the one defeated before the justice of the peace would take an appeal to the circuit court. A case of this kind was on trial at Rensselaer, and I, along with several other neighbors, had been called as a witness. Milroy & Cole were attorneys for Brennesholtz, who, by the way, was a very strong spiritualist. Spitler & Lee were the attorneys for Collins. The jurors were in their seats, the evidence all

in, the arguments ended, except from George Spitler, who was to close the argument for Collins.

Now, Spitler, as a general rule, was a plain, forcible speaker, quite effective in his manner before a jury—seldom making use of any spread-eagle style of oratory. But somehow in this case he got warmed up and closed his speech with the following burst of eloquence: “Oh, that I had the eloquence of a Demosthenes and the legal knowledge of a Blackstone, that I might portray in characters of livid light the damnable persecution of this man Collins by this idiotic old spiritualist!”

Just as he closed, he cast his eyes over the jury and discovered there were three spiritualist jurors. It is needless to say the jury failed to agree.

We at this day hear but little about ghosts and witches. They seem to be almost a thing of the past. However, only a few years ago the world was full of them. The evidence in support of their existence was fully as strong as is the evidence which still supports such

popular superstitions as those in regard to eating at a table at which thirteen are seated, or starting on a journey on Friday. So do not condemn too harshly a man who carries a rabbit's foot in his pocket for luck, or a buckeye to cure rheumatism, or a red string around the neck to keep the nose from bleeding, until we rid ourselves of all these superstitious notions.

One little incident will illustrate the condition of the minds of some people regarding superstitions a little over fifty years ago. One day, while working in the old log blacksmith shop in Morocco, a man came in with a little job of work. While waiting for it to be finished he related to me his troubles. It seemed from his story that some time before he, or some of his family, had been having a little falling out with an old lady in their neighborhood, and from that time they were unable to make their butter "come," although they had spent much time and put forth a lot of hard labor at the churn. Being unable to account for this condition of things on any reasonable grounds, they finally came to the conclusion

that the old woman with whom they had been quarreling had "bewitched" the cow. The more they thought of it the stronger became the conviction. After telling of his troubles he wanted my advice as to how this "spell" might be removed. My experience along the line of witchcraft having been limited, I had to draw on my imagination somewhat. My first thought was to recommend the black cat cure. That was to take a black cat and cut off three inches of its tail, one inch at a time. Upon reflection I concluded that would be pretty rough on the cat, so I abandoned that treatment. I then told him to go home and fill his churn one-third full of water, take the king-bolt out of his wagon, put one end in the fire, and, when it got quite hot, to swing it three times around his head, shout as loudly as he could, and then stick the hot end of the king-bolt into the water in the churn. That, I told him, I thought was the best thing to do under the circumstances.

He went home and I had almost forgotten the circumstance, when one day a few weeks

afterward he again came to the shop. This brought the whole matter fresh to my mind, and I asked him if he had done as directed.

He answered that he had done so and that since doing it there had been no trouble with the butter proposition. To make the remedy still more certain of having produced these results, he said: "And I want to tell you, right at that very time that I done it, that old woman who had bewitched the cow had a spell of sickness."

Which proved positively that she had bewitched the cow and also demonstrated the efficacy of the remedy. It also proved that my misplaced sympathy for the black cat had resulted in misfortune for the old lady, although I had not meant to do her any harm.

JUSTIFIABLE LARCENY

I RECALL an interesting trial held at Morocco.

James Moore had missed several hogs, and he suspected one of his neighbors of having stolen them. On searching the premises of the suspected party, evidence was discovered which satisfied Mr. Moore that his suspicions were well founded. He then went to the justice of the peace, James Murphy, and swore out a warrant for the arrest of the suspected party. This warrant was placed in the hands of the constable, Thomas Starkey, who came to my house and asked me to go with him to assist in making the arrest. When we reached the home of the party we were to arrest we learned that he had gone away. Expecting to catch up with him in a short time, we rode on after him. We kept hearing of his passing certain houses along the road, so we kept on

for some forty miles until we reached the town of Bradford. Here we caught up with him and arrested him just as he was getting on the train to go south. We stayed in Bradford overnight and the next morning started for home. We went through Rensselaer, where we stopped for dinner, and at this point the man under arrest made arrangements with David Snyder, a prominent attorney of that town, to go down with us to Morocco and defend him at the trial.

We reached Morocco after having been away two days, although we had not expected to be gone more than that number of hours. The court was soon in session and ready to dispose of the case. A jury was demanded and soon collected and accepted by the parties. Witnesses gave their testimony showing that the body of the missing hog had been found in the house of the accused and fully identified. It looked as though nothing could be said or done to prevent the speedy conviction of the prisoner. David Snyder commenced his plea to the jury by saying that in all new countries

there were certain conditions and practices that every one recognized and accepted, the same being entirely different from the conditions existing in older settled portions of the country; that customs long practiced in a community became of higher authority in determining certain cases than the mere letter of the law, instancing the established custom of going to the woods and taking the timber freely from lands owned by non-residents, placing under the same rule the right of every person to take a hog wherever found running at large. He said that custom made law and from time immemorial it had been the custom in this country to consider hogs as public property, and before a man could rightfully be punished for this offense there must be a public meeting of the citizens of the community to then and there declare that, from and after a certain date, hog-stealing in that community would constitute and be considered a crime.

Strange as it may seem to us now, the jury took the same view of the case that Mr. Snyder did and the prisoner was discharged.

About the year 1850 there was a great rush to buy up the timber lands of this part of the state. The idea then was that as soon as immigrants commenced the settlement of the prairie, the timber lands would become valuable and a source of great profit to those owning the same. With that idea in view, a great many non-residents rushed in and bought up large tracts of timber land, thereby, to some extent, at least, establishing a hindrance to the settlement of the country. Consequently it was not long until, by a law acted upon almost universally, residents had the right to go upon what was called "speculators' lands" and take the necessary timber to improve their farms and erect their buildings, quieting the conscience by saying, "Others do it, and why not I?"

About the time the timber lands were bought up, quite a large number of Swedes settled about seven miles west of Morocco, across the state line in Illinois. I want to say they proved to be a very valuable class of citizens—honest, industrious and truthful. Al-

though they had a hard time to make a living for the first three or four years after they settled there, it was not long until they had good farms and improvements, surrounded by many of the comforts of life, amply repaying them for the privations of the first few years. When the nation needed their help, no community, according to their number, furnished more or better soldiers during the civil war, many of them serving in Indiana regiments.

A few years after they located and the struggle for a livelihood became easier, they concluded they needed a church building, as they were a very religious people. So one winter day when there was snow on the ground and sledding was good, about twenty or more started for the woods with teams and sleds to cut logs and haul them to Morocco, where there was a saw-mill. There they could have the logs sawed up into lumber, to be used in building the church.

That same afternoon James Archibald went out to get some timber for his own use, and on arriving at a piece of timber land owned

by him, north of Beaver Creek, he found some of these same Swedes busily felling trees. On reaching the point where they were at work he asked them what they were doing. They told him they were cutting logs and hauling them to the mill, as they were getting ready to build a church.

He said to them: "Do you know whose land this is that you're cutting on?"

They replied that they did not.

"Well," Archibald went on, "this is my land and I don't want you to be cutting my timber."

They immediately stopped work and called to their preacher, who was assisting them in the work. When he came up, one of the men told him what Mr. Archibald had said.

The preacher replied, "Well, men, you must stop cutting here at once."

Then, turning to Mr. Archibald, he said, "We are very sorry, indeed, Mr. Archibald, to have disturbed your land, as we don't want a stick of stolen timber put in our church, but we really thought this was 'speculators' land.' "

THE OLD COURT HOUSE

AT the time of the organization of Newton county the town of Kent consisted of one store, one dwelling house, erected by David McHolland (now owned by Thomas Moore, one square west of the Catholic church), and a couple of unfinished store buildings. Through the courtesy of the owner of one of the latter buildings we were allowed possession of same for the transaction of county business, all of the officers occupying the one room. We at once opened up the books and from that time on were ready to discharge the duties devolving upon the several officers of Newton county.

When the commissioners, appointed by the governor to locate the county-seat, made their report locating the same at the town of Kent, they also reported the proposition of A. J.

Kent, in case they should locate the same as he desired. His proposition was: A donation by himself in cash of five hundred dollars; 160 acres of land, being the southeast quarter of section 23, town 28, range 8; 195 lots, 30 x 150 feet each; and a court house square, 350 x 250 feet, to be selected by the county commissioners.

To indicate subsequent proceedings, I quote from the records:

“June 18, 1860. The commissioners, in pursuance of law, proceeded to select the site for the court house for said Newton county. After viewing the different blocks of land laid out into lots, as per plat of said town of Kent, said commissioners selected block 16, containing 30 lots, as a site for the court house and public offices of said county. At the same date it was ordered by the commissioners’ court that Reuben White be appointed agent to receive the donations for the county seat from A. J. Kent, as per the proposition made by him.

“March 6, 1861. It was ordered that the auditor, recorder and clerk of Newton circuit court are hereby appointed a committee with

full power to contract for the erection of a building, to be used as a court house, on block 16, and superintend the building of the same at a cost not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), to be paid for out of the donation funds of said county.”

The recorder and clerk refusing to serve on the committee above named, the auditor did, on April 10, 1861, take to his assistance Reuben White, and proceeded to post notices for proposed bids to furnish material and erect said court house.

On April 15, 1861, the parties above named met for the purpose of receiving bids, as advertised, and the contract was at that time let to John B. Chesebrough for the sum of nine hundred and seventy-four dollars (\$974). Afterward they made an additional contract with him to erect a portico over the east door of the said building for the sum of twenty-six dollars (\$26), making the total cost of the house, when completed, one thousand dollars. This was at least one instance in which a court

house was built within the limits of the first appropriation.

“June 3, 1861. Commissioners met. Present, William Russell, Michael Coffelt and Thomas R. Barker. Elijah Shriver, sheriff, declared the court in session. Whereupon it was, on motion, ordered that we do now adjourn to meet in the court room of the new court house, erected on block 16, in the town of Kent.”

This building was a plain, frame structure with the court room and two jury rooms above and four offices below. The lower rooms were appropriated by the clerk and auditor on the south side of the building, and by the treasurer and recorder on the north side.

This arrangement continued until 1867, when the small building, located north of the court house, was erected, containing two rooms. When first built, it was the intention to use these rooms as jury rooms. However, objections were raised on account of their being on the ground floor. Being abandoned for

that purpose, the clerk soon after appropriated the west room, the recorder taking the east one. The auditor's office was then enlarged by taking in all the south side of the court house on the first floor. The sheriff then took possession of the room deserted by the recorder, this being the first time he had been able to secure a separate office.

This arrangement continued until August, 1906, when the new and present court house was completed. The old building was abandoned after a continuous use of forty-five years and was, on November 5, 1906, sold to John Simmons for the sum of one hundred and seventy dollars. The original cost of the building had been one thousand dollars. Deducting the amount for which it sold, made the real cost to the county only \$830 for forty-five years' service, or an annual rental of \$18.50 a year. I doubt if any other county in the state can show such an illustration of economy.

THE NEW COURT HOUSE

AT the regular term of the commissioners' court of Newton county, held at the court house in Kentland, April 3, 1905, the commissioners, David Hess, James A. Whaley and Elmer Skinner, made a contract with Eric Lund, of Hammond, Indiana, to furnish all material, construct and complete a court house on the public square in the town of Kentland, for the sum of \$26,195, said building to be erected according to plans furnished by Joseph T. Hutton, architect and superintendent of construction.

Bonds were issued to pay the cost of construction and sold to J. F. Wild and Company for the sum of \$27,251, they being the highest and best bidders for the same. There were sixteen other bids for the court house bonds.

Prior to the letting of the contract to Eric Lund to build the court house, proceedings

were instituted in the Newton circuit court to enjoin the commissioners of Newton county, viz., David Hess, Elmer Skinner and James A. Whaley; and the county council of Newton county, to wit: James Chancellor, John R. Hershman, Charles Hartley, George M. Heriman, R. L. Ewan, Felix Tyler and Edward Roush, from letting a contract to build a court house at Kentland, Newton county, Indiana.

April 1, 1905. Case came up for trial, and the court, after hearing the evidence of witnesses and arguments of counsel, overruled the motion to enjoin the commissioners from building the said court house, and made the further order that the defendants, to wit, the county commissioners and county council, recover from the plaintiffs their costs in this case laid out and expended.

The plaintiffs thereupon made a motion for a new trial, which motion was by the court overruled.

The plaintiffs then prayed for an appeal to the supreme court, which was granted by the court.

Transcripts of the proceedings were made out, filed in the supreme court, and on June 30, 1905, the supreme court, in a lengthy decision, overruled the action of the Newton circuit court.

The main point made by the supreme court in its ruling on the case was that the county council, in making the appropriation to build the court house, had done so by a motion and not by an ordinance. I quote from same:

“It is therefore ordered by this court that the judgment of the court below, in the above entitled cause, be in all things reversed as to the board of county commissioners of Newton county, all of which is ordered to be certified to said court.”

During the time this case was pending in the supreme court, the contractor, Eric Lund, had commenced work on the building, and at the time the decision of the supreme court was rendered he had put in the foundation and the side walls up to the top of the first story. The commissioners had paid him on this work the sum of \$12,000, for the payment of which

amount they held an indemnifying bond signed by a large number of the citizens of Jefferson township to protect them against any loss that might come to the county by reason of such payment.

This decision of the supreme court, of course, brought everything to a standstill. What had been done would be a total loss unless steps were taken to complete the building. It also had the effect of destroying the legality of the bonds, issued to pay the cost of such construction. The owners of the bonds immediately proceeded by suit to recover from the county the amount paid for same, together with interest and costs. Everything that had been done was void and matters had to commence again at the very beginning.

The county council met and this time made an appropriation by ordinance instead of a motion, thereby complying with the decision of the supreme court.

September 6, 1905. The commissioners of Newton county met and placed upon their records the report of the county council, au-

thorizing the commissioners to issue bonds and borrow \$24,500 for the following purposes:

\$19,450 for completing the court house.

\$2,500 for furniture.

\$800 for electric wiring and fixtures.

\$250 for architect.

\$1,000 for costs and attorney's fees in circuit and supreme court.

\$500 attorney fees for E. P. Hammond in commissioners' court and county council meeting.

On November 6, 1905, the commissioners made an appropriation of \$28,500 to pay the judgment obtained by the bondholders. Of this amount \$13,529.97 was already in the treasury and new bonds were issued for \$14,970.03.

At the January term, 1906, the commissioners ordered that, in accordance with the ordinance passed by the county council in November authorizing the bond issue, the bonds of Newton county for that amount be issued and sold for the purposes above stated.

It was ordered that bonds in the sum of

\$23,000 be issued and sold to provide funds for the completion of the unfinished court house at Kentland. It was further ordered, at the same term, that the bid of Eric Lund to complete the building for the sum of \$18,525 be accepted.

August 6, 1906. Joseph T. Hutton, architect, employed by the commissioners to superintend the construction of the court house, filed his report, certifying the contract made with Eric Lund to perform the same for the sum of \$18,525, had been fully complied with.

It was therefore ordered by the commissioners that the contract made with Eric Lund "having been fully complied with according to the terms and conditions of same, we therefore accept said court house and dedicate the same to the use of the public, and to be used as and for the court house of Newton county, Indiana."

It was further ordered that the sheriff be directed to remove all books, papers, records and furniture from the old house and place the

same in the proper offices in the new building, said removal to be made immediately.

The total cost of the new court house, when finished, may be thus stated:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Paid Eric Lund on first contract. | \$12,000 |
| Paid Eric Lund on second contract. | 18,525 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$30,525 |
| Amount of bid on first contract. | 26,195 |
| | <hr/> |
| Additional cost to county by reason of appeal, etc. | \$4,330 |

Afterward parties commenced suit in the circuit court to recover this difference from the signers of the indemnifying bond given to the commissioners but the court decided against them and the case was dismissed.

THE COUNTY SEAT FIGHT

WHEN this county was stricken off from Jasper, the question of the location of a county seat for Newton county was a disturbing proposition. At that time very few people lived south of the Iroquois river in the territory so stricken off. Probably ninety per cent. of the population was north of the river. It seems it should have been an easy matter for the residents to have settled upon some satisfactory point for the location of the county seat and that all might have worked together to accomplish that result. There were, however, several communities in the central part of the county, each working for the county seat, and their influence was frittered away and destroyed by fighting one another. The principal towns contesting for the honor were Morocco, Brook, Beaver City, and a point

about three miles east of Morocco, said to be the geographical center of the county. This confusion of sentiment among the majority of the citizens gave the commissioners an excuse for locating the county seat, as they did, at the extreme south end of the county but on the line of the only railroad then passing within the boundaries.

Although the county seat had been legally located, the majority of citizens were still dissatisfied, many of them being very bitter over the matter and it was not long until the question of removal was raised. The authority for this was found in a law, passed in 1855, for the removal and relocation of county seats by a petition of two-thirds of the legal voters of the county, to the board of commissioners, asking for such removal and relocation. And so the following efforts were made to remove the county seat from Kentland.

NUMBER ONE

“September 6, 1860. Commissioners court of Newton county, Indiana, met. Present,

Thomas R. Barker, Michael Coffelt and William R. Russell, commissioners, and the following action taken:

“John Darroch, John Coffelt, F. W. Ham, Andrew Hess, Silas Johnson and James Archibald filed on the 4th day of September, 1860, with the auditor of said county, a petition for the removal of the county seat and its re-location at and on south half of the northwest quarter of section 36, town 29, range 9, averring that said petition contained the names or signatures of two-thirds of the legal voters of the county. And at the same time filed a deed for a site for county buildings, containing three and one-fourth acres of land, also deposited fifty dollars, as provided by law, for employing an architect.

(Prior to this time they had erected a building to be used as a court house, an exact duplicate of the one at Kentland, on the proposed site for the re-location. This building stood for many years, known as the Beaver City Court House.)

“And whereas, A. J. Kent and others have

objected to said petition as not containing two-thirds of the legal voters of the county, it is therefore ordered that the several petitions be read and that any person, for cause, may challenge any name thereon and show cause why such name should not be counted on the same."

"September 7, 1860. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, same as yesterday. The whole day was spent in examining the petition for removal and the remonstrance against the same, and the evidence of witnesses as to their legality."

"September 8, 1860. Case still in progress. The petitioners introduced the poll book of the last election, showing that 492 votes cast at that time be taken as the true number of voters in determining this case."

The court ruled that the act of 1855, under which the petitioners were acting, left the question an open one to be decided by the court, the same as any other question of fact, by the best evidence obtainable. The court ruled that the 492 votes cast at the last election

fell short of the true number of legal voters in the county at that time. Therefore, the court was of the opinion that the 342 names on the petition and the 202 names remaining on the remonstrance made a total of 544, as the true number of legal voters in the county. And the petition not having two-thirds of the legal voters on the same, it was therefore ordered that the case be dismissed.

The next movement made for the removal of the county seat was from the neighborhood of Brook, as shown by the following record of proceedings.

NUMBER TWO

“June 3, 1861. Commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present, William Russell, Michael Coffelt and Thomas R. Barker, when the following proceedings were had:

“C. E. Triplett, Z. Spitler, John Lyons, Andrew Hess, and others, petitioners for the removal and re-location of the county seat from the town of Kent to a site near the town of Brook, to wit: on the northeast quarter of the

northeast quarter of section 19, town 28, range 8, filed ten petitions said to contain 390 signatures to the same, also deed for five acres of ground as a site for public buildings, also bond of Z. Spitler for conveyance of 160 acres of land; also, to convey to the county every third lot in the town plat, to be laid out in said northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 19, town 28, range 8; also a bond for one thousand dollars to be used for the erection of public buildings. The petitioners also filed a list of the votes cast at the last October election.

“Now comes A. J. Kent and others and file a remonstrance against the said removal.

“The remonstrants then moved the court to strike from the petition for removal the name of all those who had, since signing said petition, joined the United States army and been mustered into the service of the United States.

“The court ruled that said soldiers were not legal voters and their names be stricken from said petition.”

The court convened from day to day, exam-

ining witnesses and hearing the argument of counsel.

“June 7, 1861. Court again met when Attorney M. Collins made a motion that the petitioners be allowed to withdraw their suit and all papers be returned to them. Which motion was by the court overruled.

“And it was then ordered by the court that on account of the defects in the bond for the one thousand dollars that this case be now dismissed and that all papers in the same be retained by the court.”

Again I quote from the records:

NUMBER THREE

“Commissioners’ Court—Special Term—May 17, 1869. Present, Andrew Hess, John F. Johnson and James Halleck, commissioners.

“Come now James Nelson and files petition said to contain the names of 685 legal voters asking for the re-location of the county seat of Newton county, Indiana, at Beaver City. Also, files deed for land as site for court house and jail, and pays into court \$250, of which \$100

is to pay architect and \$150 to pay commissioners in assessing damages, as provided by law.

“Comes also, A. J. Kent, by his attorneys, Baldwin and Wallace, and files motion to dismiss said petition, which motion was overruled by the court.”

The case was continued from day to day. Motions and arguments of counsel were heard, and several affidavits filed and disposed of.

“May 19, 1869. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Appeared also the petitioners by Hammond and Spitler, their attorneys, and moved the court to dismiss their proceedings with leave to withdraw all papers filed and money paid into court. Which motion was by the court allowed, and the case dismissed without prejudice.”

One year later another effort was made.

NUMBER FOUR

“March 10, 1870. Court met in regular session. Present, Andrew Hess, John F. Johnson and James Halleck, commissioners.

“Come now Daniel Ash, and 609 others, by Hammond and Spitler, their attorneys, and file thirty petitions praying for the re-location of the county seat of Newton county, Indiana, at Morocco upon the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 21, town 29, range 9; also file deed for two and one-fourth acres of land as a site for the court house and jail; also tender and deposit the sum of \$100 to pay an architect, and also the further sum of \$150 to pay such damages as may be assessed against them, in conformity to the requirements of the law.”

For some cause not disclosed in the records, the petitioners, by their attorneys, Spitler and Hammond, did, on March 11, 1870, come into court and dismiss these proceedings with leave to withdraw all the papers, money, etc., filed by them in this case.

Which motion was by the court sustained and leave granted.

NUMBER FIVE

“December 24, 1872. Commissioners’ court of Newton county, Indiana, met pursuant to adjournment. Present, Andrew Hess and Daniel Gray, commissioners; John S. Veatch, auditor; William Patrick, sheriff, when the following proceedings were had:

“Comes now John W. Daveer, John Thompson and 952 others and file their petition to re-locate the county seat of Newton county at Brook; also, file deed for two lots of ground as sites for court house and jail; also, file bond for all costs or damages herein.

“Comes now, C. B. Cones, A. J. Kent and 580 others, by Peter H. Ward, their attorney, and file their remonstrance against said relocation.

“Counsel for petitioners move to strike said remonstrance from the files of this court, to which counsel for remonstrants objects, and court now adjourns.”

“December 25, 1872. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, same as yesterday.

“The court, after hearing argument of counsel and being duly advised in the premises, orders that the remonstrance against the re-location of the county seat at Brook be stricken from the files of this court for insufficiency.

“Come now the remonstrants, by their attorneys, and file an amended remonstrance.

“Whereupon, the petitioners dismiss this cause and ask leave of the court to withdraw their paper, etc., which is granted.”

NUMBER SIX

“June 19, 1876. Court met in special session. Present, O. G. McIlwain, A. M. Guilford and W. W. Wishard, commissioners; J. Z. Johnston, auditor, and Jira Skinner, sheriff.

“In the matter of the petition of Daniel Ash and others for the re-location of the county seat of Newton county at Morocco.

“Come now the said petitioners, by R. S. Dwiggins and Carmichael & Darroch, their attorneys.

“Come also John G. Perry and Patrick Keefe, by E. O’Brien, W. H. Martin and J. T. Saunderson, their attorneys, and file remonstrance to said petition.

“The petitioners now offer to pay or deposit the sum of \$100 to pay an architect, and the further sum of \$150 to pay any damages that may be assessed against them.

“Court adjourned.”

“June 20, 1876. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, same as yesterday.

“The petitioners now move the court for leave to file additional petitions in said cause, which motion was overruled by the court.

“The court, after having duly considered the question, refuses to receive or allow to be paid in or deposited by said petitioners the sum of \$100 to pay an architect, and the further sum of \$150 to pay damages that may be assessed against them, offered to be paid after the filing of the remonstrance.

“The whole day was spent in arguing different motions, and it was then ordered that the court do now adjourn until to-morrow.”

THE COUNTY SEAT FIGHT 153

“June 21, 1876. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, same as yesterday.

“Come now parties, by their respective counsel, and after hearing the evidence of witnesses presented and the argument of counsel thereon and being duly advised on the same,

“It is ordered by the court that the prayer of the petitioners for the removal of the county seat, as asked for in said petition, be refused.

“The petitioners then asked for an appeal to the circuit court, which was granted.”

A change of venue was afterward taken from the Newton circuit court to Jasper county, and from Jasper county taken to Tippecanoe county, and while the case was in the Tippecanoe circuit court, a case was decided in the supreme court involving the same points in dispute as in this case, adverse to the petitioners. On that account this case was dismissed.

Thus ended battle No. 6.

Prior to this time, all efforts made for the relocation of the county seat were, under the law of 1855, by petition. From this time on, action

was had by election under a special law, approved March 2, 1899, entitled "An Act to re-locate the county seat of Newton county."

It provided that if, at any regular session of the board of commissioners of Newton county, Indiana, four hundred legal voters and freeholders of said county, two hundred of whom had been freeholders at the last general election, shall present a petition praying that an election be held for the purpose of re-locating the county seat of said county at some point to be named in said petition, then such an election shall be called.

The petitioners were required to file a bond for \$3,000 to pay the expenses of the election prayed for.

On compliance with these conditions the commissioners were required to fix a day for holding such election, the same to be not less than sixty nor more than ninety days from the date of granting the petition.

Three days after the election was held the inspectors were to meet at the clerk's office and canvass the votes so cast.

Within five days the clerk was to certify to the auditor the number of votes cast for and against said re-location, and if sixty-five per cent of the votes cast were in favor of re-location, the auditor was required to call the board of commissioners together within thirty days, they to take the necessary proceedings to carry out the requirements of the law for such re-location.

The next attempt to transfer the seat of government was made under the law indicated above.

NUMBER SEVEN

“April 2, 1900. Court met in regular session. Present, E. Parsons, Henry T. Griggs and F. Edmondson, commissioners; S. C. Jones, auditor, and Chester Wickwire, sheriff.

“Comes now Frank Davis and others, and presents petition praying that an election be held for the purpose of re-locating the county seat of Newton county, at the town of Morocco, and affidavits showing that said petition contained the names of four hundred free-

holders and voters, two hundred of whom were freeholders and voters at the last general election.

“At the same time petitioners file bond for \$3,000, as required by law.

“And now come Carroll C. Kent, Patrick Keefe, George D. Rider, W. T. McCray, H. A. Strohm and J. V. Dodson and file their demurrer to said petition.

“And the court, having examined the petition and bond aforesaid, find that they meet the requirements of the law.

“It is, therefore, ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that an election shall be held on the 19th day of June, 1900, and the auditor is hereby ordered to give the legal notices for the same as required by law.”

This election, which is still remembered by all who lived in the county at the time, brought out 1515 votes for a re-location and 1415 votes against the same.

The petitioners having failed to receive the necessary sixty-five per cent. of the vote cast, the county seat remained at Kentland. How-

ever, another determined effort was made the same year.

NUMBER EIGHT

“Petition to re-locate county seat at Brook.

“Before the board of commissioners of Newton county, Indiana. Present, Henry T. Griggs and W. F. Edmondson, commissioners; S. C. Jones, auditor, and Jasper Collins, sheriff.

“Comes now John B. Lyons and others, and present to the board their petition praying for an election for the purpose of re-locating the county seat of said Newton county at Brook; also, at the same time files affidavit of two freeholders showing that said petition contains the names of four hundred freeholders and legal voters of said county, and that two hundred of said signers were freeholders and legal voters at the last general election in said county, as required by law; and also, at the same time files a bond for \$3,000, as provided by law.

“And the board, finding that said petition, affidavits and bond do in all things meet the

requirements of the law, did on the 3d day of July, 1900, order an election to be held for the purpose of determining whether the county seat shall be re-located at the town of Brook, as prayed for in this petition.

“And the board did further order that said election shall be held on the 25th day of September, 1900, and that the auditor gave proper notices of the same, as required by law.”

On September 25, 1900, an election was held in accordance with said order, at which time 1337 votes were cast for the re-location of the county-seat and 1208 votes cast against such re-location.

The petitioners having failed to secure a legal majority of the votes cast, their case was dismissed by operation of law.

NUMBER NINE

“Petition for election to re-locate county seat at Goodland. Commissioners’ court, Newton county; regular term, October 1, 1900. Present, E. E. Parsons, Henry T. Griggs and

W. F. Edmondson, commissioners; S. C. Jones, auditor, and J. J. Collins, sheriff.

“Court met and adjourned from day to day until October 5, 1900, when the following proceedings were had:

“Come now the petitioners, by Emery B. Sellers, their attorney, and present their petition and bond praying that an election be held for the purpose of re-locating the county seat of Newton county at Goodland, with the affidavit of three freeholders attached, showing that said petition has been signed by 400 freeholders and legal voters, 200 of whom were freeholders and legal voters at the last general election in said county.

“The court, finding that said petition, affidavits and bond in all respects meet the requirements of the law do now order that an election be held in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners and that said election be held on the 30th day of January, 1901.

“Come now Carroll C. Kent, W. H. Ade, W. T. McCray, Ephraim Sell, George D.

Rider and J. V. Dodson praying for an appeal to the circuit court, which was granted.”

On trial of the appeal in the circuit court the action of the commissioners was sustained, whereupon the remonstrants took an appeal to the supreme court. Afterward, to wit, on the 19th day of March, 1902, the supreme court sustained the action of the circuit court and the commissioners of Newton county were ordered to fix another date for election.

The commissioners, on April 7, 1902, ordered that a special election, for the purpose of determining the question as to the re-location of the county seat at Goodland, be held on June 7, 1902.

At this election, 1834 votes were cast for the re-location and 697 votes were cast against the same.

The commissioners met in June, 1902, and certified that the petitioners had received more than the sixty-five per cent. necessary.

On August 12, 1902, commissioners appointed by the governor to appraise the public

buildings at Kentland met and reported the same to be of the value of \$1,000. Said report was signed by Albert M. Burns, Anthony A. Anheir and George W. Williams.

Afterward, on August 27, 1902, John R. Davis commenced action in the circuit court to restrain the county commissioners from letting contracts for the erection of county buildings at the town of Goodland, and the court did, on the 1st day of September, 1902, refuse to grant the order prayed for.

On January 29, 1903, Elmer R. Bringham commenced suit in the Newton circuit court, asking that a writ of mandate be granted commanding the commissioners of Newton county to let a contract for the building of a court house at Goodland.

On February 4, 1903, a change of venue was taken to White county.

Afterward the writ of mandate was granted by the judge of the White county circuit court. An appeal was taken to the supreme court of the state of Indiana, which court did, at its November term, 1903, in a lengthy decision

(reported in volume 161, page 616, of the reports of the supreme court), decide that the act of March 2, 1899, on which act this case was based, was unconstitutional, and that all proceedings under it were void.

This decision of the supreme court practically ended the long struggle for the removal of the county seat from Kentland. The projection of a new north-and-south railroad through Kentland, connecting it with the northern points of the county, and the building of a new court house, both operated to make the removal less advisable.

OFFICIALS OF NEWTON COUNTY

THE following is a list of various officials who have been connected with the government of Newton county since 1860:

JUDGES OF CIRCUIT COURT

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Charles H. Test | 1860-1870 |
| David P. Vinton | 1870-1873 |
| Edwin P. Hammond | 1873-1883 |
| Peter H. Ward | 1883-1890 |
| Edwin P. Hammond | 1890-1892 |
| U. Z. Wiley | 1892-1897 |
| Simon P. Thompson | 1897-1902 |
| Charles W. Hanley | 1902- |

JUDGES OF COMMON PLEAS COURT

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| William C. Talcott | 1860-1868 |
| H. A. Gillett | 1868-1873 |

CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Zechariah Spitler | 1860-1864 |
| E. L. Urmston | 1864-1868 |
| Nathaniel West | 1868-1870 |
| Andrew Hall | 1870-1876 |
| W. W. Gilman | 1876-1880 |
| John G. Davis | 1880-1888 |
| W. H. Kenoyer | 1888-1896 |
| Ira Drake | 1896-1904 |
| Reuben Hess | 1904- |

AUDITORS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Alexander Sharp | 1860-1864 |
| John Ade | 1864-1868 |
| Alexander Ekey | 1868-1872 |
| John S. Veatch | 1872-1876 |
| J. Z. Johnston | 1876-1880 |
| Alexander Sharp | 1880-1883 |
| J. Z. Johnston | 1883-1888 |
| Marion C. Coover | 1888-1896 |
| Schuyler C. Jones | 1896-1905 |
| Alonzo Purkey | 1905-1909 |
| Elmer Bringham | 1909- |

NEWTON COUNTY OFFICIALS 165

COUNTY TREASURER

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Samuel McCullough | 1860-1864 |
| Samuel Bramble | 1864-1868 |
| Alexander Myers | 1868-1872 |
| Daniel A. Pfrimmer | 1872-1876 |
| John F. Johnson | 1876-1880 |
| George Jenkins | 1880-1884 |
| Isaac Smart | 1884-1888 |
| Samuel Martindale | 1888-1892 |
| Alfred Jenkins | 1892-1896 |
| William H. Ade | 1896-1900 |
| Frank Coovert | 1900-1904 |
| Charles Spinney | 1904-1909 |
| Albert Schuh | 1909- |

COUNTY RECORDERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| John Ade | 1860-1864 |
| John Peacock | 1864-1872 |
| Ezra B. Jones | 1872-1880 |
| George M. Bridgeman | 1880-1884 |
| Elisha Parsons | 1884-1887 |
| Henry Parsons | 1887-1888 |
| John Higgins | 1888-1896 |
| Albert Boyle | 1896-1901 |
| W. H. Boyle | 1901- |

COUNTY SHERIFFS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Elijah Shriver | 1860-1864 |
| Horace K. Warren | 1864-1866 |
| Charles Frankenberger | 1866-1868 |
| Horace K. Warren | 1868-1872 |
| William Patrick | 1872-1873 |
| Jira Skinner | 1873-1878 |
| Hugh Parker | 1878-1880 |
| John Ullery | 1880-1884 |
| Samuel Martindale | 1884-1888 |
| John W. Randall | 1888-1892 |
| Lawrence Graves | 1892-1896 |
| Chester Wickwire | 1896-1900 |
| Jasper J. Collins | 1900-six months |
| John Wildasin | 1900-1904 |
| Henry Stoner | 1904-1908 |
| Moses Sawyer | 1908- |

SURVEYORS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Adam W. Shideler | 1860-1864 |
| Barnett Hawkins | 1864-1870 |
| Jonas Chambers | 1872-1874 |
| Milton Cook | 1874-1876 |
| Benjamin Harris | 1876-1878 |
| Otis Shepard | 1878-1882 |

NEWTON COUNTY OFFICIALS 167

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| N. F. Jenkins | | 1882-1884 |
| Robert Hamilton | | 1884-1890 |
| Jesse M. Lockwood | | 1890-1894 |
| Barnett Hawkins | | 1894-1900 |
| Edward Hamilton | | 1900-1907 |
| John J. Alter | | 1907-1909 |
| Greenberry Lowe | | 1909- |

SCHOOLS

AFTER the taking effect of the new state constitution in 1852, and the action of the legislature necessary to put the provisions of the same in force, the present school system came into existence and has continued until the Indiana school system has for several years been a model for other states to follow.

The first school house erected by any organized body in Newton county was in 1854, when a small frame building was constructed in the town of Morocco. It stood about a square north of where the Farmers' Bank is now located, and cost about \$300. No better illustration of the advancement made in our system of schools can be shown than by copying the last report of W. O. Schanlaub, superintendent of schools for Newton county, which he has kindly furnished me for this purpose.

SCHOOLS

169

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR 1908-1909.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Number of teachers employed . . . | 100 |
| Number of township schools . . . | 56 |
| Number of commissioned school towns | 4 |
| Amount paid teachers in township schools | \$23,549.13 |
| Amount paid teachers in 4 town schools | 22,670.49 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total amount paid teachers | \$46,219.62 |
| Cost of maintaining schools, be- sides teachers' salaries | \$20,029.02 |
| Total amount for improvements during year—Township | \$5,626.32 |
| Total amount for improvements during year—Town | \$20,128.65 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total for permanent improve- ments | \$25,754.97 |
| Number of children enrolled in town- ship schools | 1287 |
| Number of children enrolled in town schools | 1210 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 2497 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Aggregate amount paid teachers per day | \$306.15 |
| Average wage of each teacher per day | 2.81 |
| Number of volumes of books in school libraries | 9294 |
| Estimated value of school property —Township | \$50,500 |
| Estimated value of school property —Town | 103,000 |
| | <hr/> |
| Value of all school property . | \$153,500 |
| Value of Brook school property . . | \$30,000 |
| Value of Goodland school property | 28,000 |
| Value of Morocco school property . | 25,000 |
| Value of Kentland school property . | 25,000 |
| Number of common school graduates . | 100 |
| Number of commissioned high school graduates | 48 |

CHURCHES AND PREACHERS

BEFORE going into any general history of church work in Newton county, I want to speak of the work done by individuals rather than by organized congregations. The work to which I refer was done by men who have passed on to receive their reward for the deeds done in the name of their Master. Their lives of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty still deserve from us a tribute of respect and thankfulness for the influence they exerted and the examples left to us who are so much more favorably situated than were they. We are now enjoying many blessings which have come down to us through the influence of their lives and their teachings.

The memory of my association with these men is one that I treasure. I was well acquainted with all that I may name and I can truthfully claim them as personal friends.

We sometimes fail to appreciate the value a community receives from the life and influence of a good man living in it. In fact, there are many communities to-day that are influenced, morally and religiously, by the lives of men who have passed away years ago, of whom it may truthfully be said, "Though dead, their influence still lives."

One of the neighborhoods most fortunate in the character of the early residents was that on the north side of the Iroquois river, nearly due north of the present town of Kentland. This was known as the Kenoyer and Myers settlement. Frederick Kenoyer and Jacob Kenoyer were father and son, both preachers, and members of the United Brethren church. Jacob Kenoyer was quite prominent in that church. He was a good preacher and also a very fine singer. He opened his meetings by doing his own singing, generally singing some hymn of his own composition. He was considered a fine preacher, well known and respected, not only in the church of his choice, but by his neighbors and a wide circle of

friends and acquaintances. He died on July 23, 1870, comparatively a young man, in his forty-ninth year, honored and respected by all who knew him. The elder Kenoyer was not so widely known. He and his wife both lived to a good old age, dying a very few days apart.

George Myers and Robert Edmondson were both preachers, living in the same neighborhood—the Kenoyer settlement. They were good and useful men who have long since gone to their reward.

Two or three miles west of Morocco was what might well be called the Johnson and Archibald neighborhood. Of the Johnsons there were Silas, John F. and Dempsey; and of the Archibalds, William, Robert and James—all men of integrity and uprightness of character. They were all members of the Christian church, and it was due to their influence that the Christian church gained such a strong footing in Newton and Jasper counties, Indiana, and Iroquois county, Illinois.

Especially do I want to commend the life work of Silas Johnson and Nathan Coffen-

berry as preachers and teachers in those early days. Leaving home on horseback Saturday morning, they often rode twenty or thirty miles, preaching twice or three times on Sunday. On Monday they would retrace their way back to their homes, where they would work the rest of the week on their farms, to provide for the wants of their families. Very often their teaching was misunderstood and misinterpreted, for we of these days know but little of the strife and confusion existing between the different religious bodies of that time; but every one to-day, who was acquainted with those men, especially Silas Johnson, has only words of praise and commendation for them and their labors. I think it would be safe to state that hundreds of men and women to-day are living lives of faithfulness to the religion of Christ by reason of the steadfastness of these men to their religious convictions.

The Brook neighborhood was equally fortunate in the character of their early settlers. There was the Lyons family—John, Samuel and Morris—all first-class men; with Philip

Earl and Samuel Benjamin—a body of men any neighborhood might well be proud to claim. These, with the Hess families, Andrew and David, gave to that community a safe moral condition which is still in evidence. Their upright examples have influenced not only their own descendants, but all who associate with them.

MOROCCO CHURCHES

As Morocco was the first town started in the county, and in it was built the first building used and owned by any organized religious body, a description of the same would seem naturally to claim our attention at this time. The building referred to was erected about 1856, on the same site the old log house occupied. It was a good, comfortable building, having two front doors, as all church buildings had in those days—one entrance for the men and the other for the women. At that time it was not thought to be proper for a man and his wife to sit together on the same seat in church.

The first preachers for the Methodist people, after I went to Morocco, were James Farris, from near Francisville, and Isaac Sayler, living near Rensselaer. They were both local preachers and came to Morocco to conduct services at irregular intervals. The Rev. Farris was the father of the Hon. George Farris, who lately represented the Terre Haute district in congress.

At the present time Morocco has five church organizations, viz., Methodist, United Brethren, Baptist, Christian and Catholic, all having good churches in which to meet.

The First Baptist Church of Morocco was organized in 1897. Pastors who have served said church are: Mr. Faulk, W. C. Carpenter, I. W. Bailey, J. M. Caldwell and F. A. Morrow, the latter still serving in that capacity. They have a fine, large building, which cost in the neighborhood of \$8,000, and they are now out of debt.

The first Christian church at Morocco, Indiana, was organized in January, 1887, with about sixty-five members, with D. M. Johnson

as elder, and George W. Murphey, George H. Bell and Theo. F. Clark as deacons. Prior to this time, however, there had been preaching by L. M. McDermott, J. H. Edwards and D. M. Johnson.

A protracted meeting was held a short time previous to the organization, by Elder Craft, at which time quite a number were baptized by him, making a sufficient number to warrant the organization. In the fall of the same year (1887) a frame church building was erected, and on February 5, 1888, the same was dedicated by L. L. Carpenter, of Wabash, Indiana. From this time there was preaching by such men as Elders Hubbard, Anderson, McNeil, Shoemaker and Campbell. From January, 1892, until September, 1893, D. M. Honn was pastor. Following him came A. L. Ferguson, S. Moot and W. L. Stein, in the order named.

During 1899 Thomas Shuey held a three-weeks meeting. George W. Watkins served the church as pastor from February, 1900, to October, 1901. He was followed by C. G. Brelas, and it was during the latter's ministry

that the new edifice was erected and dedicated September 13, 1903, by Charles R. Scoville, of Chicago, who held a two-weeks meeting following the dedication.

Following this, the church was served by Frank C. Higgins, George Musson, E. C. Boynton, George B. Stewart. Everett Gates, of Chicago, was engaged, closing his work in January, 1909, when L. P. Builta became minister and retains that position at this time.

In the month of February, 1910, L. E. Sellers and LeRoy St. John held a protracted meeting for the church, resulting in sixty-two additions to the membership of the church, which now numbers about two hundred.

BROOK CHURCHES

The first Methodist church building erected in Brook was a frame structure erected during the pastorate of B. C. McReynolds, in 1886 or 1887, although there had been Methodist preaching in the neighborhood as far back as 1840. The present brick building was erected

in 1889, and dedicated in January, 1900. The building is centrally located, opposite McKinley park. It is modern in its architecture and appointments, and I do not think it would be out of place to say it is a standing monument to the energy and liberality of John Esson, although he was not a member of that church.

The first religious services I attended in Brook were held by the Methodists in 1857, in a new barn on the farm of Morris Lyons. There were two preachers present, one by the name of Johnson, the other called Stevenson, who resided in the south part of Benton county and was afterward appointed chaplain of the 15th Indiana regiment. Mr. Stevenson preached the sermon on this occasion.

He was a man of fine talent and educational ability, but with these qualities he combined a little eccentricity in everything he did. Many funny anecdotes are related of him during his connection with the army. One story was related to me by an officer of his regiment. While they were stationed in West Virginia, in the early part of the war, a correspondent of

the *Indianapolis Journal* visited the regiment, and in a letter written to that paper he spoke of Chaplain Stevenson as being a "brick." This was a new term to the chaplain, as applied to individuals, and being uncertain as to whether it was complimentary or otherwise, he took the precaution to inquire of the other officers as to its significance. They informed him the word suggested a man who was tough and immoral in his character, one who became drunk, and gambled, and had all the other vices they could think of. The chaplain at once opened up a correspondence with the *Journal* in which he fiercely and emphatically denied the charges made against him in the letter of their correspondent, and wanted it distinctly understood that he was not a "brick."

During the progress of the services in the barn above referred to, a hen flew down out of the hay-mow where she had deposited an egg, and, as hens invariably do, she made a great fuss about her achievement, calling the attention of every one to the fact that she had accomplished something for which she deserved

world-wide fame. As a matter of fact, this method of announcement is not confined exclusively to hens. During the interruption Mr. Stevenson stopped his preaching and remarked, "I wonder what that old hen wants. She can't get religion."

A few years afterward I met Mr. Stevenson and spoke to him, calling him by name. He wanted to know how I knew him. I told him where I met him—at the time he preached in the new barn at Brook.

He said, "Is it possible that you were there when the old hen flew down out of the mow?"

I told him I was there and that, I believed, was the only thing I remembered of his sermon.

He laughingly replied, "Well, I declare! I believe that old hen has a more lasting reputation along the Iroquois than I have."

At the present time Brook has three good churches, United Brethren, Methodist and Christian—all live, active, working organizations and each denomination having a good, substantial brick building in which to worship.

KENTLAND CHURCHES

The first religious service in the town of Kent was held in the loft over the storeroom of Ross & Peacock, which stood facing the railroad, near the site of the present Fletcher blacksmith shop. A Baptist minister preached there a few times during the year 1860. After the Kent Hotel was completed, services were held in the waiting-room by Jacob Kenoyer, a Mr. Bloomer, and possibly by others. After the United Brethren church was built, it was used occasionally by other denominations. A union Sunday school was established and maintained as such for ten years or more, when for some cause or other it split up and separate schools were established.

Prior to the building of the first Methodist Episcopal church building in Kentland, in the year 1870, the following officiated as ministers for that congregation: D. S. Dunham, in 1861; Miles H. Wood, 1862; Mr. Stranahan, in 1863, and E. W. Lawhon in 1864. The latter was the first regularly stationed preacher of

that church. During the week, he worked for C. Rettinger in his shoe shop, as he was by trade a shoemaker. He was a faithful, consistent Christian, carrying on his church work under many difficulties, some of which grew out of differences of opinion arising on account of the Civil War. The violence of the prejudices at that time it is almost impossible for us to realize in this day.

Following him came Isaac Sailor, in 1865, although he was not regularly located here; H. C. Woodhams, in 1866; Miles H. Wood, 1867; J. M. Blye, 1868. Charles W. Tarr was here from 1869 to 1871, and during his ministry the former church building was erected. He went from Kentland, at the expiration of his term, to Los Angeles, California, where it was a pleasure for me to meet him and his wife in 1908.

G. W. Bower served as pastor in 1872; Wilson Beckner in 1873; Joseph Foxworthy in 1874; H. N. Ogden, 1875; C. B. Mock, 1876; Wilson Beckner, 1877 and 1878; W. G. Vessels, 1879-1880; W. B. Slutz, 1881; G. R.

Streeter, 1882-1883; J. H. Siddall, 1884-1885; Samuel Godfrey, 1886-1887; R. D. Utter, 1888; W. F. Clark, 1889; S. P. Edmondson, 1890; J. J. Claypool, 1891-1893; Samuel W. Goss, 1894; A. T. Briggs, 1895-1896; W. A. Matthews, 1897; W. R. Mickels, 1898-1899; J. C. Martin, 1900-1905, and C. A. Stockbarger from 1906 to the present time.

The building mentioned above was dedicated July 19, 1870, by John M. Reid, D. D. About \$3,000 was raised on that day to pay the indebtedness, the cost of same being about \$4,000.

At the time of revising this history (March, 1911) the Methodists of Kentland are preparing to dedicate a handsome new \$15,000 edifice.

The Presbyterian church of Kentland was organized in 1867, by C. Palmer, of Watseka, Illinois, and occasional services were held in the old court house until 1870, when the congregation built a frame meeting-house costing about a thousand dollars. It is still in evidence as a store-house used by Schuh and Son.

CHURCHES AND PREACHERS 185

The following ministers served this church :

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| J. B. Smith | 1870-1872 |
| R. E. Hawley | 1872-1875 |
| C. McCain | 1875-1883 |
| Joseph McHatton | 1883-1892 |
| R. Hooke | 1892-1895 |
| W. E. Price | 1895-1898 |
| James Cooper | 1898-1904 |
| Howard Billman | 1904- |

In 1896 they built a brick building, at a cost of about \$11,000, which is still being occupied.

The Christian Church of Kentland was organized March 21, 1876. Prior to that time there had been transient preaching by Silas Johnson, S. M. Conner, L. L. Carpenter and others.

May 6, 1876, W. H. Graham, Ezra B. Jones and John Ade were elected trustees and instructed to purchase the United Brethren meeting-house, which instruction was complied with and a deed secured for the said property. This building was used by the Christian church until 1907, when a new

church building was erected on another lot purchased by them. The new building was dedicated December 15, 1907, and cost about \$11,000.

In the early existence of this organization the pulpit was filled temporarily by such preachers as A. M. Atkinson, S. Rohrer, J. P. Davis, and others. In 1876 Mr. Hendryx was employed to preach for one year; in 1877 J. H. Edwards became pastor, serving some eighteen months. Following him, John Ellis supplied the pulpit half the time, and in the intervals came many other preachers, among whom were William Kraft, Robert Ireland, Ira Chase, S. M. Conner and F. P. Franklin. In 1880 L. M. McDermott preached for this church a little more than a year. For several years the pulpit was supplied temporarily by the Revs. Hires, Henegen, Gilchrist, Hubbard, Dempsey Johnson, Orlando Johnson, Rodman McIlwain, and others. Mr. and Mrs. Crank were employed to preach in December, 1895, remaining until September 1, 1898.

CHURCHES AND PREACHERS 187

Following this Lewis Hotaling supplied the pulpit from October 1, 1898, for two years. In 1900, L. J. Shuey was engaged and served the church a short time, after which H. A. Wingard was minister and served until J. L. Brady was employed, who preached from January 1, 1902 until January 1, 1909. During this period the new church building was erected. From January 1, 1909, until March 1, 1910, J. N. Cloe served as minister, at which last date Mr. Bennett succeeded him as pastor, which brings it up to the present time.

During the early sixties there were a number of Catholic families living in the vicinity of Kentland, and the first priest to visit them came from Logansport, Indiana. Services were held at intervals in the court house until 1864, when J. A. Stephan took charge of the mission. During the same year the first church building was erected. This was a wooden structure, 40 by 60 feet, at a cost of about \$1,000.

In 1872 the present brick parsonage was erected, and in 1888 the present brick edifice, at a cost of \$8,000. The old church building, with considerable remodeling, was transformed into school-rooms, and is still used as such by the parochial school.

The pastors who have ministered to this church (called St. Joseph's) are:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| J. A. Stephan . . . | 1864-1870 |
| Anthony Messman . . . | 1870-1881 |
| F. X. Bumgartner . . . | 1881-1883 |
| W. C. Miller . . . | 1883-1891 |
| C. A. Ganzer . . . | 1891-1893 |
| C. V. Stetter . . . | 1893- |

GOODLAND CHURCHES

The thriving town of Goodland has six church organizations, all housed in attractive buildings. They are: Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Lutheran and Holland. I regret that I cannot give detailed information as to the worthy records made by these churches.

In this connection I wish to explain that, in neglecting to devote space to Goodland, I have no desire to overlook the claims of Grant township, where I have many friends. This little volume is not a complete history of all parts of Newton county, but largely a record of events and conditions that came under my personal observation. I was familiar with early happenings at Morocco, Brook and Kentland, but I never resided in Grant township and have no first-hand knowledge of its history.

The town of Goodland was laid out by Timothy Foster in 1861. At that time the town was called Tivola, afterward changed to Goodland—a very appropriate name, taking into consideration the quality of the lands surrounding the town.

At that time there were but few settlers in the vicinity of the town, and it was not until about 1870 that emigration set in this direction, principally a kind of flow-back from Illinois—very largely from the neighborhood of Ottawa, through the influence of Abner Strawn, who had business investments at

Goodland and also engaged in the purchase and sale of lands in this vicinity. At that time land was so very much cheaper here than in Illinois that many farmers in that state sold out and moved over here, buying land along the line of the railroad from Effner to Wolcott, often getting three acres in Indiana for the price of one in Illinois. At the present time the land in the neighborhood of Goodland is all under the highest state of cultivation and selling for \$150 to \$175 per acre. The town itself has made a steady growth, and, in every way, compares most favorably with the other prosperous towns along the Pennsylvania railroad.

The town of Goodland had the misfortune to lose its public school building by fire a few years ago, but the new building is a fine structure and a credit to the community.

TOWNS

MOROCCO, the oldest town in Newton county, was laid out by John Murphy, January 28, 1851, since which time the following additions have been made to the original plat:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Veatch's addition | Feb. 9, 1872 |
| Ash's addition | June 28, 1873 |
| Ash's second addition | Apr. 15, 1876 |
| Kessler's addition | May 30, 1888 |
| Hope's first addition | June 1, 1888 |
| Doty's addition | June 6, 1888 |
| Kennedy's addition | June 22, 1888 |
| Edmondson's addition | Jan. 22, 1889 |
| Kessler's second addition | Mar. 29, 1889 |
| Hope's second addition | May 29, 1890 |
| Fair Ground addition | May 5, 1893 |
| Hope's third addition | Dec. 11, 1895 |
| Peck's addition | Mar. 2, 1896 |

| ADDITION | DATE |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Peck's second addition..... | Apr. 15, 1896 |
| Nichols' addition..... | May 8, 1896 |
| Corbin's addition..... | Mar. 31, 1897 |
| Corbin's second addition..... | Apr. 21, 1898 |
| Camblin's addition..... | May 17, 1898 |
| Nichols' second addition..... | May 28, 1898 |
| Kennedy's second addition..... | July 6, 1900 |
| Chizum & Camblin's addition.. | Aug. 17, 1900 |
| Kessler & McConnahey's add'n. | Oct. 7, 1902 |
| Carpenter's addition..... | July 23, 1906 |
| Hammond's addition..... | Jan. 8, 1907 |

Kentland was laid out by Alexander J. Kent,
April 23, 1860:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| McCullough's addition..... | Jan. 2, 1866 |
| McCullough's second addition. | June 13, 1866 |
| Kent's northern addition..... | Jan. 9, 1866 |
| Ade & McCray's addition..... | Feb. 18, 1870 |
| McCray, Ade & Cones addition. | Mar. 28, 1870 |
| Kent's block 22 addition..... | Oct. 1, 1872 |
| Graves' addition..... | Mar. 10, 1894 |
| Cummings' addition..... | Oct. 28, 1895 |
| Fair Ground addition..... | May 7, 1902 |

TOWNS

193

Goodland was laid out by Timothy Foster,
May 23, 1866:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Harris' addition..... | Sept. 1, 1869 |
| Currens' addition..... | Oct. 15, 1869 |
| Teay & Woods' addition..... | Dec. 6, 1869 |
| Foster's west addition..... | Apr. 8, 1872 |
| Crider's addition..... | Apr. 13, 1872 |
| Port Wilson addition..... | May 27, 1872 |
| John Wilson addition..... | Aug. 26, 1872 |
| Perry's addition..... | Mar. 21, 1888 |
| Sapp's addition..... | Apr. 2, 1889 |
| Griggs & Babcock addition.... | May 5, 1892 |

Brook was laid out by Samuel H. Benjamin,
June 26, 1866:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Wilson's addition..... | Oct. 9, 1888 |
| Brook Imp. Ass'n addition.... | Dec. 6, 1890 |
| Esson's addition..... | Feb. 7, 1891 |
| B. Warr's addition..... | Aug. 28, 1889 |
| Wilson's second addition..... | July 29, 1889 |
| Wilson's third addition..... | Apr. 14, 1891 |
| Ed Sells' addition..... | Feb. 25, 1892 |
| Ed Sells' second addition..... | Sept. 12, 1893 |
| Daniel Sells' addition..... | Mar. 15, 1895 |

| ADDITION | DATE |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Ed Sells' third addition..... | Mar. 15, 1895 |
| Esson's second addition..... | Mar. 28, 1895 |
| Esson's third addition..... | Mar. 28, 1895 |
| Esson's addition of out lots..... | Mar. 28, 1895 |
| J. D. Rich addition..... | Mar. 11, 1897 |
| Lyons' addition..... | Jan. 5, 1906 |
| Lyons' second addition..... | May 1, 1909 |

Thayer was laid out by Atherton & Stratton,
September 21, 1882:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Vander Syd's addition..... | June 26, 1901 |
| Meeters' addition..... | Aug. 9, 1901 |
| Spitler's addition..... | Oct. 17, 1902 |

Mount Ayr was laid out by Lewis Marion,
October 18, 1882:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Marion's addition..... | July 25, 1884 |

Foresman was laid out by John B. Fores-
man, December 1, 1882.

Julian was laid out by Jacob Julian, Oc-
tober 21, 1882.

Rose Lawn was laid out by Craig & Rose,
January 19, 1882:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Long's addition..... | July 23, 1883 |
| Guilford's addition..... | July 19, 1883 |
| Goodwin's addition..... | July 28, 1883 |
| Keller, Craig & Co. addition... | Dec. 16, 1899 |

Lake Village was laid out by Richard Ma-
lone, January 1, 1876:

| ADDITION | DATE |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Charles Hess' addition..... | Nov. 25, 1905 |
| Bryant's addition..... | Nov. 22, 1905 |
| Williams' addition..... | Mar. 14, 1906 |
| John and Chas. Hess addition.. | Mar. 4, 1908 |

Ade was laid out by Warren T. McCray,
May 21, 1906.

Enos was laid out by R. & L. Bartlet, June
22, 1907.

Conrad was laid out by Jennie M. Conrad,
December 28, 1908.

KENTLAND NEWSPAPERS

THE first newspaper in Jasper county was called the *Jasper Banner*. This was established at Rensselaer in 1853. It was neutral in politics, with John McCarthy as editor. However, in the campaign of 1856 it came out strongly as a democratic paper. Because of this change in policy of the *Banner*, the *Rensselaer Gazette* came into existence and brought out its first issue on April 29, 1857, with the statement: "The *Gazette* will be republican in politics now and forever." Mr. D. F. Davies was the first editor of the latter paper, and in 1859 he sold out to I. N. S. Alter and Thomas Burroughs.

The first newspaper established after the organization of Newton county was at Kentland, and the issue came out on the 26th day of September, 1861. It was called the *Newton*

County Chronotype, with V. B. Cowen as its editor. For a short time this paper, under the management of Bissell, Ade & Ross, with its name changed to *Newton County Union*, was published as a republican paper. On December 16, 1863, H. Wyatt became editor and continued to act as such until March 24, 1864, when the paper suspended.

On February 2, 1865, Streight & Watson bought the office and changed the name of the paper to the *Newton County Gazette*. On May 26, 1865, the office was sold to J. H. Horrell and Company, who changed the name to the *Citizen*.

On February 15, 1866, H. O. Bowden purchased the office and changed the name back to the *Newton County Gazette*.

On July 21, 1866, McKernan & Horrell purchased the paper. On October 27, 1866, McKernan bought out his partner and remained proprietor until February 16, 1867, when O. P. Hervey became owner and editor. D. S. McKernan again became the owner, on May 25, 1867.

Up to this time the paper had been republican, but it adopted a neutral policy until August 3, 1867, when John B. Conner became the editor and proprietor and made it a republican paper again.

On July 23, 1874, the *Gazette* was purchased by J. M. Arnout and S. P. Conner. On May 24, 1877, John French bought out the interest of J. M. Arnout.

On April 17, 1879, Edwin Graham purchased the interest of S. P. Conner and the firm became French & Graham, and was finally changed to French & Conner, by R. A. Conner purchasing the interest of Edwin Graham.

On December 13, 1870, the office was destroyed by fire, and again in 1883 it suffered a like calamity. Notwithstanding these severe losses, in each instance the paper almost immediately resumed publication and made weekly visits to its numerous patrons.

The paper continued under the management of French & Conner until March 12, 1885, when R. A. Conner sold his interest in

the *Gazette* to Samuel Bramble, and the paper was controlled by French & Bramble until April 30, 1891.

John G. Davis and John W. Randall purchased the *Gazette* from French & Bramble on April 30, 1891, changing the name of the paper to the *Newton County Enterprise*. About one year later John W. Randall sold his interest in the paper to Harry Strohm, and for a few months the firm name was Davis & Strohm. Shortly after this John G. Davis sold his interest to Dodson Brothers, and the paper was published by Strohm & Dodson until January 1, 1908, when Charles M. Davis became one of the proprietors. On that date the firm incorporated under the title of the Enterprise Printing Company, under which name it is still conducted to this date (March, 1911).

The *Newton County Democrat* was established August 6, 1862, with W. C. Rose as editor. In the spring of 1863 the office passed into other hands and John McCarthy became editor. He continued to run the paper until the fall of 1865. The paper then suspended

for a time, but was reëstablished on August 24, 1867, with W. C. Rose as editor.

On November 19, 1867, John B. Spotswood became editor. E. M. Howard was made joint editor with John B. Spotswood in May, 1868, remaining until August 12, 1869, when Mr. Howard retired. On March 13, 1873, C. Root and Edwin Graham became the publishers. On June 13, 1873, Mr. Root retired and Mr. Spotswood again became editor.

The *Democrat* suspended on July 10, 1873. On August 28, 1874, the paper came forth under the name of the *People's Press*, with John B. Spotswood and W. L. Dempster as editors and publishers.

In November, 1874, Mr. Spotswood became sole editor and publisher. The fire of 1883 destroyed the office, and no effort was made to restore it.

Prior to this time, the *Newton County News* was started as a democratic paper by D. J. Eastburn. This was in December, 1881. In March, 1883, it was leased by Abram

Yager, but its career was summarily ended in the great fire of April, 1883.

The *Democrat* again came into existence on September 12, 1884, with A. J. Kitt as publisher and editor. On February 13, 1885, John B. Spotswood became editor of the *Kentland Democrat* and retained control of the paper until his death, which occurred October 11, 1893.

From that date until June 4, 1894, the paper was run by the administrator of the Spotswood estate, with Edward Steinbach as editor. On June 4, 1904, the paper was sold to Charles F. Wigmore, who edited the same until November 17, 1894. On November 17, 1894, Edward Steinbach purchased the paper and has controlled it as publisher and editor to the present date (March, 1911).

RAILROADS

THE first railroad project affecting Newton county was a proposal to build a line from Fort Wayne to Rock Island, Illinois, passing through Rensselaer and Newton county at a point about three miles north of Morocco. This was in 1854. There was considerable grading done through Jackson and Beaver townships, but that was as far as the undertaking progressed at that time.

In 1871 this scheme was again revived, under the name of the Continental Railway Company. Considerable grading was done east from Rensselaer but none in Newton county. The financial troubles of 1873 doomed the enterprise to failure and the people to another disappointment.

The Logansport & Peoria railroad, now known as the Pennsylvania, running through

the southern part of the county, was built in 1859, the first train passing over the route in December, 1859; but the road was not open for business until March, 1860. When this road was built there was scarcely any one living on the line from Reynolds to the state line, it being at that time an unsettled waste. This was afterward very largely settled by a flow-back from Illinois.

What is known as the Big Four railroad was built in 1871. It cuts off a portion of Newton county in the extreme southwest portion of the same. There is about a mile and a quarter of the road in this county.

The Monon railroad runs through the northern part of the county. The town of Rose Lawn is on the Monon. This road, built in 1878, was at first narrow gauge, but a few years after was changed to standard. There was a great celebration in Rensselaer on February 14, 1875, on account of the completion of this road. Alfred McCoy made a barbecue, roasted an ox, etc.

In 1882 the Chicago & Eastern Illinois rail-

road, running through Goodland, Foresman, Julian and Mount Ayr, was completed and opened up for business. In 1888 a branch of the same road, through Brook and Morocco, was built.

What is generally known as the I. I. I. road, a part of the New York Central system, was completed in 1883. There is about one and three-quarters miles in this county, in the extreme northeast corner.

In 1905 the Chicago, Indiana & Southern railroad, from Danville, Illinois, to Indiana Harbor, was built and the first trains were run over the road in December of that year. This, being a part of the New York Central system, is a great road and runs through the towns of Kentland, Ade, Morocco, Enos, Conrad and Lake Village, crossing near the center of the old bed of Beaver Lake.

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS

ANY record of the part taken by Newton county in the effort to suppress the rebellion of 1861-1865 must necessarily be very brief and meager. Volumes might be written regarding the Civil War and then the subject would not be exhausted, as every movement of troops, every battle fought, every effort made to bring peace again to our nation, concerned not only those directly engaged in such efforts, but affected every loyal citizen of our country, wherever he might reside. The one and only object of all effort in the North was to suppress the rebellion and preserve from dissolution the union of the states. So, what was done by Newton county to accomplish this result was relatively a small part of the whole, yet the great final achievement was one which the whole world now applauds and gratefully ac-

knowledges to have been for the very best interests of all factions concerned. In speaking of the Civil War I shall deal only with the part taken by Newton county in this great contest.

Unless one lived during that period and took some part in those stirring events, he must fall far short of comprehending the intensity of feeling marking that period of our history, during four years of desperate struggle for a nation's existence.

It was the first time this part of the country had been involved in real warfare. A few years earlier there had been a war with Mexico, but Newton county was too sparsely settled to take any organized part.

Threats had been made and there were dark forebodings in the minds of many of our people, yet we were little prepared to receive the news which fell like a thunderbolt in our midst on that Sunday morning, April 14, 1861.

“Fort Sumter has been fired upon and compelled to surrender!”

It is utterly impossible to describe the condition of the public mind on that Sunday.

When the people fully realized that a state of war really existed, every one was wrought up to the highest pitch of excitement. No other subject was talked about or thought about and steps were immediately taken to meet the impending crisis.

On Monday, April 15, Governor Morton telegraphed the president his tender of 10,000 men on behalf of the state of Indiana. On the same day President Lincoln issued his proclamation calling for 75,000 men.

The quota of Indiana was fixed at six regiments of infantry, comprising about 5,000 men.

On April 16, Governor Morton issued his proclamation calling upon the loyal men of the state to organize into companies and report forthwith to the adjutant-general. The response from every part of the state was prompt and generous. The day after the call 500 men were in camp. On the 19th there were 2,400, and in less than seven days 12,000 had been tendered.

NINTH INDIANA VOLUNTEERS

The first body of troops accepted from this part of the state consisted of a company from Jasper and Newton counties. They formed a part of the 9th Regiment of Infantry and were mustered into service on April 25, 1861, for three months. This company was officered by Robert H. Milroy, captain; Gideon C. Moody, first lieutenant, and Edwin P. Hammond, second lieutenant. At the expiration of the three months' service they reorganized and went into the three years' service, with twenty-five men from Newton county. This was Company G.

It is a remarkable fact, and shows the kind of material composing this company, that before the war closed one was a major-general, three were colonels, while a number were captains and lieutenants.

Before the regiment went to the front, Robert H. Milroy was appointed colonel, and so remained until his promotion to take charge of a brigade.

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS 209

Those enlisting in the 9th Regiment from Newton county were:

Thomas M. Clark—Died in service

John Dearduff

John D. Goddard

Joseph Shafer—Died in service

Adonijah Smart—Killed at Chickamauga

Isaac Smart

These were all in Company D.

In Company G were the following:

William H. Peck—Killed

Jacob H. Sager

Fred Bartholomew

John M. Bloomer—Died in service

Edmund Catt—Died in service

Thomas J. Cashaw

William H. Earl—Died in service

Christian Enfield

George C. Hawkins

Charles W. Lynch

Milton J. Moorman

Theodore F. Maxwell

Anthony Odell

Jefferson T. Redding—Killed

George W. Smith

William M. Stretch—Killed

John H. Thornton

Ezra S. Treadway—Died in service

The 9th Regiment participated in the following battles: Greenbriar, Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Wildcat Mountain, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, all the battles of the Sherman campaign to Atlanta, also the battles of Franklin and Nashville.

After this it was transferred to Texas, where it remained as a part of Sheridan's army of occupation, until September, 1865, when it was mustered out and returned to Indiana, with honors second to no regiment in the service.

FIFTEENTH INDIANA VOLUNTEERS

When the six regiments, under the first call of the governor, were organized, he was unable to stay the tide of volunteers, and tendered to the secretary of war six additional regiments, promising in case they were accepted to organize them within six days.

Communication with Washington by telegraph being cut off, no response to this offer was received. Governor Morton then determined to anticipate the further calls of the government, and to this end proceeded to organize on his own responsibility, as the commander-in-chief of the militia, five regiments of twelve-month volunteers for the defense of the state. There were at this time twenty-nine companies at Camp Morton, the general rendezvous, besides sixty-eight other companies that had been raised and tendered to the governor.

On the 7th of May, 1861, orders were issued for the organization of these companies into six regiments, the legislature having endorsed the action of the governor and added one more regiment to the number. On the 11th of May, 1861, five regiments were reported as having the full complement of men, with a surplus of six companies in camp.

In the meanwhile, the second call, of May 3, 1861, had been received, and the question of entering the United States' service for three

years was at once submitted to the state regiments. The 13th, 14th, 15th and 17th promptly accepted the proposition, except for a few who declined to volunteer for three years and were at once discharged.

The 15th Regiment was mustered into the United States' service at Camp Tippecanoe, Lafayette, June 14, 1861, with George D. Wagner as colonel. Soon after, it moved to Indianapolis, whence it proceeded by rail on the 1st of July for western Virginia.

Company H of this regiment was comprised of nearly an equal number of men from each of the counties of Newton and Jasper, the following having enlisted from Newton county:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Horace K. Warren, | Warren T. Hawkins |
| (commissioned captain April 25, 1861) | John Blue (died) |
| Luther K. Bartholomew | Henry C. Jones |
| | David F. Sager |
| | Charles Mershon |
| Joseph T. Hardesty | Jacob C. Nottingham |
| William Kennedy | John Mulligan (killed) |
| William V. Rutledge | Jackson Plummer |
| Ira J. Baker | Aaron Reed (killed) |

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS 213

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| A. J. Bartholomew (died) | Thomas Smith |
| Jared S. Benjamin | Charles G. Spear |
| William T. Burton | Ira Steel |
| John M. Butler | John Stout |
| William L. Graves | George Welch |
| John H. Grant | Henry Wishon (died) |
| George D. Hardesty | Josiah Burton |
| Christian Hundershell | James Burton |
| John A. Isaacson | Thomas Kenney |
| Moses A. Jones | Francis Marshall |
| John Jungling (killed) | Madison C. Scott |
| Samuel Kelley | Samuel Williams |
| Daniel K. Lafoon (died) | William F. Risley |
| John R. Lake | Peter Lansing |
| | Patrick Madenon |
| | William F. Powers |
| | Isaac Pugh |
| | John R. Linton |

The 15th Regiment was in the battles of Greenbrier, Rich Mountain, Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River and Missionary Ridge. In the latter battle this regiment took a conspicuous part, suffering heavily. Its loss was 202 men out of 334 engaged, being over sixty per cent. The day after this battle it marched

to the relief of General Burnside at Knoxville, traveling 100 miles in six days. Many were without shoes and on short rations. The regiment remained near Knoxville until February, 1864, when it returned to Chattanooga, and on the 14th of June, 1864, it left there for Indianapolis, where it was mustered out of the service.

FIFTY-FIRST INDIANA VOLUNTEERS

The 51st Regiment was organized at Indianapolis on the 11th of October, 1861, and mustered in on the 14th of December, 1861, with A. D. Streight as colonel, Benjamin J. Spooner, lieutenant-colonel; William H. Colescott, major, and Erasmus B. Collins, surgeon.

Company B of this regiment was made up entirely in Newton county, and composed almost exclusively of citizens from this county:

David A. McHolland, captain.

Albert Light, first lieutenant.

Adolphus H. Wonder, second lieutenant.

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS 215

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| William A. Lewis | J. F. Shaffer |
| Edwin R. Arnold | G. E. Tiffeny |
| Jeremiah Sailor | William Deweese |
| Aaron Kenoyer | D. Doty |
| J. S. Hurst | John Bramble |
| Alvin Arnold | Isaac N. Bush |
| Samuel Yeoman | William Collins |
| Robert Barr | Thomas Crawn |
| Samuel Clark | Alexander Ekey |
| John Coshow | George Haney |
| Reese Denny | Walter Hawkins |
| Patrick Griffin | Jacob Hosier |
| William Haney | Ezra G. Handley |
| George W. Heshner | Henry Howery |
| J. H. Harrington | Ephraim T. Ham |
| James Helms | James Kenoyer |
| John T. Harris | James Kerhan |
| Lemuel Johnson | Abel Lyons |
| Leroy Kelly | Cyrus Louthain |
| Samuel Lyons | Dennis Morris |
| Jira Skinner | Alexander A. Myers |
| John D. Morgan | Stark Olmstead |
| Charles Mallatt | George W. Smith |
| Jonathan Staton | Jonathan Pruett |
| John Sherman | David G. Smith |
| Barton B. West | Edward Sherman |
| Henry Bishopp | Harry Troup |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| J. S. Christopher | Ira Yeoman |
| Isaac C. Denny | James Corn |
| John J. Horn | Charles W. Clifton |
| Charles B. Davis | Jesse Dodson |
| Levi Haney | John A. Gwinn |
| Hiram H. McClain | Ephraim Haney |
| Albert Myers | Charles W. Lynch |
| W. W. Thoroughman | Warren Maist |
| John Lowe | W. E. Roney |
| Henry Meredith | John Bridgeman |
| | James Nottingham |

Albert Light died at Lebanon, Kentucky, February 24, 1862, and Adolphus Wonder was promoted to first lieutenant March 15, 1862; promoted to captain June 30, 1863; died in prison at Charleston, South Carolina, September, 1864. He was recognized as an able officer and had the respect of all the company.

Jeremiah Sailor was promoted to second lieutenant March 15, 1862.

William R. Lewis was promoted to second lieutenant June 30, 1863; to captain November 23, 1864; resigned June 11, 1865.

John D. Morgan was promoted to first

lieutenant February 6, 1865; to captain June 12, 1865; mustered out December 13, 1865.

The Fifty-first left Indianapolis for the front December 16, 1861, passing through Louisville on the 18th of the same month; through Bardstown and Lebanon, Kentucky, and in the latter part of January, 1862, took part in the battle of Hall's Gap, near Somerset. At this point, the confederate general, Zollicoffer, was killed, the enemy routed, and a large amount of guns and cannon captured.

On February 12, 1862, they returned to Lebanon, Kentucky, and there they left a large number of sick. It was at this point Lieutenant Albert Light died, also William Board. John Lowe and several others were left here. Many of them were sick with measles and because of exposure took severe colds which proved fatal in many cases.

In this early stage of the war the government was unable to provide proper care for the sick and wounded men. In Lebanon, the latter part of February, 1862, at which time I was there, there were fifteen hundred sick sol-

diers. Stores, churches and all public buildings were filled with the sick, all lying on the floors. A few had blankets but a large majority had not, and lay in rows on the floor as closely together as they could be placed. In fact, it was about as sad a sight as I met at any time during the war. The object of my trip to Lebanon was to bring back the body of Lieutenant Albert Light, and at the same time I assisted John Lowe in procuring a furlough to come back home.

The 51st took part in the battle of Stone River on the 31st of December, 1862, and January 1st and 2d, 1863, losing forty-nine men in killed and wounded. After this engagement the regiment remained in the vicinity of Murfreesboro until the month of April, 1863, when the 51st and the 73d Indiana, 3d Ohio and 80th Illinois, all under the command of Colonel Streight, headed for Rome, Georgia, for the purpose of making a raid in the rear of Bragg's army. On the 29th and 30th of April, 1863, they were overtaken by the rebel cavalry under General Forrest. What is known as the

Battle of Day's Gap ensued, resulting in the defeat of Forrest and his forces. The 51st lost thirty-one killed and wounded, among the number being Lieutenant-Colonel Sheets.

On the 1st of May another battle took place, and the enemy was again defeated. On the following day another engagement was fought near Gadsden, Alabama. In this fight Colonel Hathaway, of the 73d Indiana, was killed.

On the 3d of May, it was again overtaken by the forces of General Forrest, and compelled to surrender. After being kept prisoners for some time, the enlisted men were paroled for exchange, and went into camp at Indianapolis in the early part of June, 1863. On the 9th of February, 1864, part of the Union officers, one hundred and nine in all—Colonel Streight among them—made their escape from Libby Prison by digging a tunnel under the prison walls. This tunnel was about sixty feet long. Of the one hundred and nine who crawled through, fifty-five were recaptured and taken back. The fifty-four, after suffering

severely, finally reached the Union lines, after ten month's confinement in rebel prisons. The balance of the officers were not released until nearly the close of the war.

In November, 1863, the regiment was exchanged, and joined the army at Nashville. In February, 1864, the regiment reënlisted as veterans, and during the campaign of 1864 did duty at Chattanooga. On the 15th of December this regiment participated in the battle of Nashville, and afterward joined in the pursuit of the retreating rebels. Going as far as Huntsville, Alabama, they remained there until March, 1865. About the first of May, 1865, they returned to Nashville. In June, 1865, the 51st was ordered to Texas, and was stationed near San Antonio until November, 1865. It was subsequently ordered north and was mustered out December 13, 1865.

The principal battles in which the 51st regiment engaged were Shiloh, Corinth, Perrysville, Stone River, Columbia, Franklin, Nashville and Overton's Hill.

NINETY-NINTH INDIANA VOLUNTEERS

Company E, of this regiment, was organized in August, 1862, and rendezvoused in South Bend, with Daniel Ash, as captain, commissioned August 22, 1862. Samuel Moore was first lieutenant. The members from Newton county were as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| William W. Downes | John Brown |
| George W. Smith | James Burns |
| James W. Graves | Allen Catt |
| Stephen D. Kerns | Jacob Housheldt |
| John Barker | William Holloway |
| William Rinker | A. B. Hosier |
| B. T. Roadruck | E. L. Humphries |
| Solomon Ash | F. B. Jones |
| William Airhart | Hiram W. Kelly |
| Charles Bartholomew | Paul LaForce |
| Sylvester Board | D. W. Lowe |
| William Brown | Thomas C. Moore |
| Cyrus Brunton | William A. Patrick |
| Christian Enfield | Solomon Shriver |
| John Holloway | A. J. Saunderson |
| Joseph Hooks | S. M. Skeggs |
| Jonas L. Horner | David F. Dunham |
| John Johnston | John C. Sarver |

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Joseph Kennedy | Thomas Starkey |
| Henry S. Kramer | Young Thompson |
| Joseph L. Lafoon | J. Webber |
| Benjamin Martin | Levi White |
| Andrew Murphey | Asa Yeoman |
| John Reynolds | John W. Moore |
| E. J. Shideler | John Grenfeldt |
| Joseph Shafer | William Wilson |
| Elias W. Shaner | George O. Pumphrey |
| Carroll L. Shideler | John Starkey |
| Abraham W. Bebout | Thomas L. Thornton |
| Austin M. Darroch | G. C. VanNatta |
| Clark A. Wood | John D. Wyatt |
| William F. Board | Andrew S. Young |
| J. E. Longwell | James Atkinson |
| W. H. Alexander | James Anderson |
| G. C. Bartholomew | James Griffith |
| Abner Bartholomew | |

Of the seventy-one named above, twenty died from disease, and two were killed while in the service—nearly one-third of the whole number.

The 99th regiment was mustered into the service October 21, 1862, with Alexander Fowler as colonel. The regiment moved in

November to Memphis and was assigned to the 3d brigade, first division, 16th army corps. During the winter of 1862-63, this regiment was placed on duty guarding the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. On May 6, 1863, it embarked on steamers and went down the river, joining the forces of General Grant, besieging Vicksburg on the 4th day of July, 1863. The same day Grant took possession of Vicksburg. This regiment marched with Sherman's command for Jackson, Mississippi, and had a severe skirmish on Big Black River, reaching Jackson on July 9th. On July 16th the rebels evacuated Jackson, and Sherman's command took possession of the place. The regiment then returned to Big Black river, where it remained in camp until the latter part of September. It was ordered to Chattanooga, arriving there on the 24th of November, 1863. On the following day it took part in the Battle of Missionary Ridge. Immediately after this battle it was ordered to Knoxville to relieve General Burnside, then besieged at that place. From Chattanooga to Knoxville there was

fighting nearly all the time. Many of the men were barefooted, destitute of blankets, and were without regular rations or supplies. Arriving at Knoxville the Union forces compelled Longstreet to retreat, relieving General Burnside. A short time after the regiment was ordered to Scottsboro, Alabama, reaching that point on December 26, 1863.

The regiment remained in camp at Scottsboro until the 1st of May, 1864, when it took part in what was known as the Atlanta campaign. It was in the engagement at Resaca on May 14th; at Dallas on the 28th; and on the 15th of June it participated in a charge at Big Shanty. There was continuous skirmishing every day. It also took part in the battle in front of Atlanta, which lasted from July 20th to the 28th, on different parts of the line. On October 3d, it joined in the pursuit of General Hood, and had a fight at Little River, Georgia, on the 26th, and after a march of two hundred miles it again reached Atlanta.

On the 15th of November the regiment started with Sherman on his great march to

the sea. On the 15th of December it took part in the charge upon Fort McAllister which, after a desperate struggle with its garrison, surrendered, and thus opened Sherman's communication with the sea. After several skirmishes at different points, the regiment finally reached Washington City on June 5, 1865, and was mustered out of the service.

The 99th regiment left for the field with 900 men, and returned from its campaign with 425 officers and men. It marched, during its terms of service, over four thousand miles.

Upon arriving at Indianapolis this regiment was present at a reception for returned soldiers given in the state house grounds, on June 11th, and was welcomed home by Governor Morton and others.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH INDIANA
VOLUNTEERS

This regiment was recruited in the winter of 1863, rendezvoused at Michigan City, and was mustered into service March 18, 1864, with Richard P. DeHart as colonel, and Jas-

per Packard, lieutenant-colonel. Company A, of this regiment, comprised a large number of Newton county men, with James Bissell as captain, and Joseph Blessing as second lieutenant. At the time of his enlistment, Captain Bissell was a prominent lawyer of Kentland. He was killed about November 30, 1864, near Franklin, Tennessee.

Members of the company from Newton county were:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| George D. Boyd | Jeremiah Branson |
| William Sherwood | A. L. D. Scott |
| Abel Lyons | A. W. Scott |
| M. L. Ham | S. V. Peabody |
| John L. Mercer | William Burns |
| Theodore Broadfield | Jonathan Bell |
| D. P. Brenesholtz | N. K. Carmichael |
| H. B. Childers | William Clark |
| John Corn | J. N. Drake |
| Daniel Dexter | George Garrison |
| John Glaspey | S. Green |
| John Glass | C. Frankenberger |
| N. Holt | S. Headley |
| George Hoffman | A. Herrington |
| D. Headdington | L. J. Johnson |

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS 227

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Ephraim Kessler | John W. Knight |
| J. J. Lamb | J. H. Louthain |
| James H. Lowe | F. M. Line |
| John W. Maxy | J. W. Murphey |
| G. M. Bridgeman | B. Mullet |
| Thomas Metts | J. M. Moone |
| C. Musson | M. Ottemwaiter |
| William Odel | John Reynolds |
| J. M. Patterson | L. Stroup |
| J. A. Smith | G. A. Story |
| G. Scramblin | W. L. Veatch |
| W. T. Smith | John Vaughn |
| J. G. Vanforason | A. Yeoman |
| | I. Yeoman |

On March 23, 1864, the 128th Regiment left Michigan City, proceeding by way of Indianapolis to Louisville and then to Nashville. On April 6, 1864, it left Nashville for the front, by way of Stevenson, Bridgeport and Chattanooga, reaching Charleston, East Tennessee, on April 21, 1864.

On May 4, 1864, it left Charleston and joined the forces under General Sherman—what was known as the “Atlanta campaign.” On May 12, the army moved forward, and the

Battle of Resaca followed. Immediately following this came the battles of Dallas, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta and Jonesboro. From this time on, during the next four months, the regiment, or some portion of it, was on the skirmish line nearly every day.

On June 6, 1864, Colonel DeHart, having been disabled by wounds, Lieutenant-Colonel Packard assumed command of the regiment. All through the month of October, 1864, the regiment took part in the chase after General Hood, who was attempting to advance and capture Nashville.

On October 30, the regiment was ordered to Chattanooga, joining the forces of General Thomas at that point. From here it was taken to Nashville to oppose the forces of General Hood, then advancing in that direction. From there the regiment moved to Columbia again to meet the advances of General Hood and his forces. On November 24, the Union forces met the enemy, and for six days severe skirmishing took place, one-half of the regi-

ment being alternately on the skirmish line. In the meantime, the Union army fell back to Franklin, where a desperate fight took place, but the enemy was finally repulsed. The regiment again fell back to Nashville, where a final stand was taken.

On December 15, 1864, General Thomas moved upon the enemy, and, after two days of hard fighting, utterly defeated General Hood, driving his demoralized command beyond the waters of the Tennessee river. The regiment took part in pursuit of the retreating forces, which had ceased to exist as an organized army, as far as Columbia, Tennessee, where they remained until January 5, 1865.

In these battles, around Franklin and Nashville, Newton county had more men killed and wounded than in all the rest of the battles of the war combined—not all of the killed and wounded, however, were in the 128th Regiment.

The 128th left Columbia January 5, 1865, for Cincinnati. From there it went by rail to Washington, D. C., and thence to Alexandria,

Va. On February 20, it sailed to Fort Fisher, North Carolina, going from there to Moorehead City, North Carolina. Early in March it marched along the Atlantic & North Carolina railway, repairing the road as it advanced. On the 8th of March, the Union forces encountered the enemy near Kingston, and for two days heavy skirmishing resulted. On the 10th, the enemy made heavy assaults, but were repulsed and fled in great disorder. This regiment took an active part in the encounter, losing heavily in killed and wounded. On the 20th it left Kingston and moved to Goldsboro, being assigned to duty in that city. From there it went to Raleigh, North Carolina. Remaining at Raleigh until the spring of 1866, the regiment was ordered home and mustered out April 13, 1866.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST INDIANA VOL-
UNTEERS

The following named, all from Newton county, served in the 151st Regiment:

John Grant

John Holliday

NEWTON COUNTY SOLDIERS 231

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| George Archibald | John Warrington |
| James Coovert | Benjamin Myers |
| Solomon Bartman | John Myers |
| Henry Garrard | Freeland Runion |
| Giles Mandeville | Jesse Stanley |
| George Baker | John Wolf |
| Joseph Goodale | Charles Holliday |
| Charles Crisler | Elijah Kenoyer |
| William Holliday | James Myers |
| James Ramey | John Smith |
| | John Whaley |

IN OTHER REGIMENTS

In the 12th Indiana Cavalry, from Newton county, were: Daniel M. Graves, a captain; Henry E. Ash, Mahlon Fell, William Fleming, Albert S. Graves, Thomas Staton, Elijah M. Standridge and John Strohm.

Joseph Staton, Samuel Pierce and Thomas Staton went in an Illinois regiment.

C. E. Triplett joined the 87th Regiment Indiana Volunteers and was promoted to surgeon.

Newton county had in the 5th Cavalry:

Cyrus Leaming, S. Carroll, Josiah Howenstein and A. A. Harrington.

J. A. Hatch served in the 36th Illinois as surgeon.

Joseph Ade enlisted in the 6th Ohio Infantry, although living in Kentland at the time of his enlistment. Charles E. Ross, still a resident of Kentland, went from this county and enlisted in the 8th Illinois Cavalry. Both of them served throughout the entire war.

In addition to the above, the following served in scattering regiments:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Thomas Burton | 127th | Indiana | Regiment |
| Joseph Zoborosky | 48th | “ | “ |
| David Honn | 54th | “ | “ |
| Albert Creek | 20th | “ | “ |
| Calvin Creek | 10th | “ | “ |

All honor to our heroes, living and dead, who saved our nation! All praise to the mothers, wives and sisters who so nobly did their part in the nation's struggle for existence! Words are too weak to express their anxiety and mental suffering during the long years from 1861 to 1865!

DURING WAR TIMES

IN July, 1863, Governor Morton issued a call to resist the invasion of John Morgan, commonly known as "Morgan's Raid." Within forty-eight hours 65,000 men tendered their services. Among the volunteers was a full company of about eighty men from Newton county. This call was received at Kentland on Friday afternoon. Men rode over the county all night, notifying all who were likely to enlist to meet at Kentland the next day, to take part in the defense of the state. Nearly every one who was notified responded, and an organization was effected, with Horace K. Warren, captain, and John Ade, first lieutenant.

About the middle of the afternoon this company took a train for Logansport. In the meantime, communication was opened up with

Indianapolis, notifying the authorities of the state that we were on the way. Arriving at Logansport, we received word to remain there over night. We camped in the court house, the citizens of Logansport supplying all our wants bountifully. The next day we awaited orders, finally receiving word that there were more men in Indianapolis than could possibly be used, and to allow no more to come forward. Toward evening of that day, the Pennsylvania railroad company furnished an extra train and took us back home. I am sorry no muster roll of this company was preserved, and therefore I can not give a list of its members.

The first call for troops was made by the president of the United States, on April 15, 1861, for 75,000 men to serve three months. This was followed by calls of May 3, 1861, 42,034 for three years; July 2, 1862, 500,000 for three years; August 4, 1862, 300,000 for nine months; October 17, 1863, 300,000 for three years; July 1, 1864, 200,000 for three years; March 14, 1864, 200,000 for three years; July 18, 1864, 500,000 for one, two and three

years, and December 19, 1864, 300,000 for one, two and three years.

No serious difficulty was felt in Newton county in obtaining volunteers to fill the quota, until the call made July 18, 1864, for 500,000 men. Newton county's quota, under this call, was thirty-seven men. In response to a public meeting of the citizens of the county, held in Kentland, October 14, 1864, the county commissioners met in a special session on October 19, and made the following order:

“October 19, 1864. Ordered that there be bonds of the county issued to the amount of \$18,500, for the purpose of raising means to procure 37 recruits, the number of men due from Newton county under the present call. Said bonds to be of the denomination of \$25 and \$50, with 6 per cent. interest, payable annually, principal to be due in five years, and that Nathaniel West, William Russell and E. L. Urmston be appointed a committee to dispose of the bonds, procure the recruits, and take such action as they may see proper to carry out the objects of this order.”

The order was signed by William Russell, Philip Hunter and Daniel Dearduff, commissioners.

On February 15, 1865, the commissioners passed an order to pay \$250 to each accepted volunteer accredited upon the quota of the county, provided that this should be paid only where the township bounty did not exceed \$200. The total amount expended for bounties was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| By the county commissioners | \$26,900 |
| By Iroquois township | 2,200 |
| By Jackson township | 2,200 |
| By Beaver township | 1,500 |
| By Washington township | 2,000 |
| By Jefferson township | 3,000 |

Making a total paid as bounties \$37,800

This does not include amounts paid out for relief of soldiers' families, which amounted to a little more than \$4,000.

Newton county, like many other parts of the state, had its disloyal element. In fact, the legislature, in February, 1862, had drafted a

law to deprive Governor Morton of his military authority over the militia of the state, and nothing prevented them from carrying out their intentions but the action of the loyal members of the legislature. During the night prior to the day when the scheme was to be carried out, these members left Indianapolis, refusing to return, thereby breaking the quorum and making it impossible to do anything more that term.

Again, in 1863, we had another illustration of this same feeling. One H. H. Dodd had been engaged in shipping revolvers and other arms and ammunition to disloyal parties over the state, such shipments being marked, "Sunday school books." In September, 1863, he visited this part of the state, making speeches and urging resistance to the draft and discouraging enlistment. At Rensselaer, where he repeated the same kind of talk, he was arrested by the provost-marshal and placed in custody. The news soon spread all over this part of the state and the members of the Knights of the Golden Circle, or as they were

sometimes called, "Sons of Liberty," of which there were several organizations in Newton county, were called together.

On the following morning, which was Sunday, they started from all points in the county toward Rensselaer, with the determination of rescuing Mr. Dodd or losing their lives in the attempt. They went into camp about five miles west of Rensselaer, at a point known as Blue Grass, on the farm of Mr. Mallatt. After they arrived there, they learned, through some of their friends, that Rensselaer had organized a company, fully armed, which awaited their arrival to welcome them with "bloody hands to hospitable graves." Here their courage oozed out, and instead of being an army desirous of war they soon began to favor peace at any terms. Before night they followed the illustrious example of the famous king of Spain, "who marched uphill with twice five thousand men and then marched back again."

A TRIP TO VICKSBURG

IN the early part of September, 1863, the 99th Indiana Regiment was in camp on Black river, Mississippi, about twenty miles back of Vicksburg. The word came that Young Thompson, a member of that regiment, was very sick. His wife came to see me and prevailed on me to go down there and do what I could toward getting him home. Accordingly, I went to Indianapolis, called on Governor Morton, and secured a letter from him stating the object of my business and generally recommending the same, with the request that I be permitted to pass through the lines unless conditions made it impossible for any one to be granted that privilege. During the war I made several trips to the front, and always, before starting, I secured proper credentials from Governor Morton.

On this trip, I proceeded to Cairo and there took a boat for Memphis. On this boat there were many persons going to the front on missions somewhat similar to mine, most of them having sons in the different camps or hospitals, sick or wounded. At Cairo I secured a pass to Memphis, but now I could go no farther until I secured another. Accordingly, I went to the provost-marshal's office and stated my business. He politely told me that it would be impossible for me to secure a pass to go farther down the river as all transportation possible was needed for the demands of the army. I stated my case as urgently as I could, but to no avail, as he said there was a positive order outstanding forbidding the granting of any more passes to citizens. As a last resort I handed him my letter from Governor Morton, which he read.

When he had finished reading it he remarked, "Governor Morton can have anything he asks for down here."

He at once filled out a pass, which is still in my possession, and reads as follows :

A TRIP TO VICKSBURG 241

No. 139 (S) OFFICE PROVOST-MARSHAL,
MEMPHIS, Sept. 6, 1863.

The bearer, John Ade, has permission to go to Vicksburg, as a passenger on any steamboat not exclusively in Government service.

SWENNEY, Deputy. SWAYNE, Col. and Provost-Marshal.
Good for two days.

Armed with this document, I had no trouble in securing passage down the river, and also was entrusted with many messages from my fellow-passengers, who had been detained at Memphis, to their friends and relatives down the river. The river was quite low and at many places the channel would run close to the bank, so that often we expected to be fired on by "bushwhackers." On landing at Vicksburg we were not disturbed. Walking up the wharf, I happened to stop and look back toward the boat. There, coming off the same boat, I saw my old friend and neighbor, Thomas C. Moore. We had been on the same boat several days without meeting each other.

There was a strange condition of things

existing at Vicksburg. Next to the river was a very high bluff. In order to transport freight to and from the river, roads had been cut through the bluff, leaving a perpendicular bank on each side of a street. During the siege citizens had dug out tunnels into these banks. On each side of these hallways they had excavated rooms in which hundreds of families lived, so as to be out of danger during the long siege, which ended by the surrender of the city to the forces under General Grant, on July 4, 1863.

Thomas Moore, being a member of the 99th Regiment, had been home on a furlough and was now returning to his regiment. We took a freight train out to the Black river bridge, the end of the railroad. We then had about six miles to walk. On arriving at the camp I found that Mr. Thompson had been sent up the river on a hospital boat to the general hospital at St. Louis.

I remained there a few days, and as soon as I could, I got a boat from Vicksburg and started home. One little incident on the way

home illustrated the condition of things then existing. About 100 miles above Vicksburg the boat stopped at a landing to take on wood. While the wood was being put aboard, a great many of the passengers went ashore and walked around, not suspecting any danger. After the boat had gone on for two or three hundred yards and we were passing some timber, we were fired on by a large band of guerillas. The most of the firing was directed against the pilot house, but as this was protected by boiler iron, the pilot was not hurt. Many bullets passed through the cabin but no one was struck. There were a few guns on board and the firing was returned, but the enemy were hidden in the bushes so closely that we could not see them so we did not know that our fire had done any damage.

For the protection of the river, the government had gunboats stationed at points to patrol it. It also had boats, each with a company of cavalry on board, and when such boats were attacked they would run to the nearest landing point, where the cavalry would land and make

an effort, at least, to destroy the attacking force. Usually by the time they got to the place from which the attack had been made, they would find only peaceable citizens.

Upon my arrival home I notified Mrs. Thompson of the movements of her husband and she immediately went to St. Louis, where she found him. He was too ill to be brought home, and died a few days after her arrival.

Young Thompson was a good man, respected by all who knew him. He went to the army for no other reason than because he felt an obligation, as a loyal citizen, to risk his life for the preservation of his country.

Something happened about this time which had no relation to the war, but which came as a great hardship in a time of general distress. In the latter part of August, 1863, a heavy frost killed all the corn in the middle west, as far south as Cairo, Illinois.

A TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA

ABOUT the 20th of December, 1863, William Graves and I left home to go to Chattanooga, he to look up his son, Lawrence, and I to look after George W. Dearduff. Both were members of Company H, 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and both had been severely wounded at the charge up Missionary Ridge.

Mr. Graves and I first went to Indianapolis and procured passes for the trip, crossing the Ohio river at Louisville. From there we took a train for Nashville, where we remained overnight. Next day we rode on a freight train. Arriving at Stevenson, Alabama, we tried to get accommodations at the hotel for the night, but the best we could get was the use of a couple of chairs in the hotel office. Sometime the next day we got another freight train and

rode as far as Bridgeport, where the railroad ended. We started from there to walk to Chattanooga, crossing the Tennessee river on a pontoon bridge. Night overtook us at White-side Station, near what was known as the High Bridge, which had been burned sometime before. Learning that the 9th Indiana Regiment was in camp on top of a hill nearby, known as Raccoon Mountain, and having several acquaintances in that regiment, we made a call and were heartily welcomed. We spent the night there in camp. The next morning we came down off the mountain and took the railroad track toward Chattanooga. We had gone but a short distance on our way when we met General Sherman's men on the march back from Knoxville, and then on their way to Huntsville, Alabama, to go into winter quarters. Their clothes were in rags and many of them were barefooted, but the men themselves were all right, except to look at. They had been ordered up from Vicksburg, taking part at once in the battle of Lookout Mountain and also the battle of Missionary Ridge,

and after that, had been sent on the march to Knoxville to relieve General Burnside. Now, on their long march back, they were a sorry-looking lot, although they told us the worst cases had been sent down the Tennessee river on boats. Their clothes were mostly in tatters and they would not have made a very fine appearance on dress parade. However, they would have been the equals in fighting qualities of any other like number of soldiers on earth. As we passed them on the railroad the continuous inquiry was, "How far is it to Bridgeport?"

Nothing eventful happened after passing these soldiers until about the middle of the afternoon, when we were stopped by a squad on a picket line, who demanded our passes. I had no trouble in showing mine, but William Graves, after a long search, finally concluded that his pass was lost. They were about ready to start with him for headquarters when, after another search, he succeeded in finding the pass. We had a very pleasant visit with these soldiers before again starting. We divided our

crackers with them, for we were carrying our own provisions. Toward night we reached Chattanooga. As early as possible the next morning we hunted up the parties we had come to see. We found Lawrence Graves badly wounded in the arm, although getting along very nicely. George Dearduff was in the hospital, wounded in three different places, two wounds in the shoulder and one just below the knee. The leg wound was so bad that the surgeons decided to amputate; but George, who was a Dearduff, fought against it so hard that they changed their minds. He said that if he had to die, it would be as the owner of two legs. He was then lying on his back, with his leg in a swing. He remained there for about four months before he could be moved or allowed to go home.

We remained at Chattanooga about a week. I had to leave George Dearduff, but Lawrence Graves secured a furlough and went back home with us. We left there the last day of December, 1863. We walked the railroad track to Bridgeport, stopping for the night in

a big tent in which were stored supplies for the army. About three o'clock the next morning we caught a freight train and rode to Stevenson, arriving there on the morning of that memorably cold day, January 1, 1864. About daylight we boarded a train going to Nashville and rode all day in a freight car, the coldest day I ever passed through. William Graves used to say that all that kept us from freezing was the fact that a bunch of darkies occupied the same car and passed the day dancing and "patting Juber."

We reached Nashville, where we stayed all night, taking a train the next morning for Louisville. This was a passenger train, and we got along very comfortably that day. We were detained in Louisville two days, owing to the floating ice in the river, the ferry boats being unable to cross. We finally crossed and reached home on the first train into Kentland for four days.

George Dearduff came home later, and, although he suffered more or less from his wounds the remainder of his life, he lived

forty-four years, dying October 29, 1907. William Graves died December 15, 1908, in the ninety-third year of his age. Lawrence Graves is now living in Oklahoma.

During my stay in Chattanooga a circumstance happened that seemed a little strange. Before going there, I learned that the 6th Ohio, in which my brother, Joseph, was serving, was stationed there, so I had hoped to have a visit with him. Shortly after my arrival, I made inquiry as to the location of that regiment and was informed that the 6th Ohio, with other regiments, had been sent to Knoxville to relieve General Burnside. I then gave up all thought of seeing him, but a day or so afterward, in talking to a soldier, he told me there was a Joseph Ade, of the 6th Ohio, still in Chattanooga. Although his regiment had been sent away, he had been left in charge of the baggage belonging to the regiment and not taken on its march. He told me where this camp was, and upon going there I found it was indeed my brother Joseph, the only member of the 6th Ohio Regiment left

there. I had the pleasure of his company during the remainder of my stay in Chattanooga.

It was my good fortune, about forty-five years after, to re-visit Vicksburg and Chattanooga and note the changes that had taken place—from a condition of war to that of peace. In the first place, we needed no pass from a provost-marshal before we could go where we pleased all over that southern country. Everywhere we went we were welcomed, and it may be truthfully said, “The swords have been beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks.”

On March 11, 1908, C. C. Kent, W. H. Roberts and myself took an auto ride around Vicksburg. We visited the National Cemetery in which are 18,000 graves, 12,000 of which are unknown. These grounds are beautifully kept, and it is a great credit to the nation that the graves of its brave defenders are so faithfully cared for. From there we rode around the lines of the contending armies in 1863, along which are monuments and tablets showing the position of the different divisions of the two

armies. The government has also constructed a fine macadamized road all along these lines, so that where, in 1863, this part of the country was torn up with zigzag trenches and lines of forts and breastworks, swiftly running autos now glide along smooth roads, and we enjoy the scenes stretched out before us in perfect peace, trusting that the scenes of carnage of that earlier period may never be repeated in our nation.

Vicksburg has not increased much in population since the war. Although at that time it was located on the Mississippi river, it is now some five miles from that stream, the river having cut a new channel in its course, leaving Vicksburg that distance inland. To remedy this condition, the Yazoo river, which formerly emptied into the Mississippi a few miles above Vicksburg, was turned into the old channel of that river, in front of the city, so that at this time Vicksburg is not located on the Mississippi but on the Yazoo river.

From Vicksburg we went to New Orleans, then to Jacksonville, Florida; St. Augustine,

Palm Beach, Miami, and then to the end of the Flagler railroad at Knight's Keys. We returned over the same route to Jacksonville and from there to Chattanooga, where we spent two days, arriving there March 25, 1908.

On Friday, March 27, we first went on Cameron Hill, then around the city, and from there we went through the National Cemetery. We rode out to the Chickamauga battlefield, one of the bloodiest of the war. This battle took place September 19 and 20, 1863. The men on each side numbered about 60,000; the loss on each side was about 16,000, or about twenty-five per cent. of the combined army. Running all through the old battlefields are good roads, along which are monuments, markers and tablets, showing the positions of the different divisions of the two armies during the two days' battle.

Near Crawfish Springs there is now a large hotel, where we took dinner. In the afternoon we went the length of Missionary Ridge, along which also are monuments and tablets, showing where the several regiments of the Union

army made their famous charge up the steep side of the ridge. We found markers for several Indiana regiments, among which were the 9th, 15th and 87th, all from our part of the state.

Chattanooga has improved very much since our previous visit in December, 1863. At that time the settled population was about 1,500, and now they claim 75,000.

INGERSOLL'S TRIBUTE

AS a fitting conclusion to the record of our patriotic soldiers, I will quote the wonderful address made by Robert G. Ingersoll, at Indianapolis, September 20, 1876:

“The past rises before me like a dream. Again we are in the great struggle for national life. We hear the sounds of preparation, the music of the boisterous drums, the silver voice of heroic bugles. We see thousands of assemblages, and hear the appeals of orators. We see the pale cheeks of women and the flushed faces of men. In these assemblages we see all the dead whose dust we have covered with flowers. We lose sight of them no more. We are with them when they enlist in the great Army of Freedom. We see them part from those they love. Some are walking for the last time in quiet, woody places with the maid-

ens they adore. We hear the whisperings and the sweet vows of eternal love as they lingeringly part for ever. Others are bending over cradles, kissing babes that are asleep. Some are receiving the blessings of old men. Some are parting with those who hold them and press them to their hearts again and again, and say nothing. Some are talking with wives, endeavoring with brave words, spoken in the old tones, to drive from their hearts the awful fear. We see them part. We see the wife standing in the door, with the babe in her arms, standing in the sunlight sobbing. At the turn of the road a hand waves. She answers by holding high in her loving hands the child. He is gone and for ever!

“We see them all as they march proudly away, under the flaunting flags, keeping time to the wild, grand music of war, marching down the streets of the great cities, out through the towns and across the prairies down to the field of glory, to do and die for the eternal right!

“We go with them, one and all. We are by

their side on all the gory fields, in all the hospitals of pain, on all the weary marches. We stand guard with them in the wild storm and under the quiet stars. We are with them in ravines running with blood, in the furrows of old fields. We are with them between contending hosts, unable to move, wild with thirst, the life slowly ebbing away among the withered leaves. We see them pierced by balls and torn with shells in the trenches by forts and in the whirlwind of the charge, where men become iron with nerves of steel!

“We are with them in the prisons of hatred and famine—but human speech can never tell what they endured!

“We are at home when the news comes that they are dead! We see the maiden in the shadow of her first sorrow. We see the silvered head of the old man bowed with the last grief!

“The past rises before us, and we see four million of human beings governed by the lash! We see them bound, hand and foot. We hear the strokes of cruel whips. We see the hounds

tracking women through tangled swamps. We see babes sold from the breasts of mothers. Cruelty unspeakable! Outrage infinite! Four million bodies in chains! Four million souls in fetters! All the sacred relations of wife, mother, father and child trampled beneath the brutal feet of Might! And all this was done under our own beautiful Banner of the Free!

“The past rises before us! We hear the roar and shriek of the bursting shell. The broken fetters fall! These heroes died! We look. Instead of slaves we see men and women and children! The wand of progress touches the auction block, the slave pen, the whipping-post, and we see homes and firesides and school houses and books! Where all was want and crime and cruelty and fetters we see the faces of the free!

“These heroes are dead! They died for liberty! They died for us! They are at rest! They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows and the embracing vines! They sleep be-

neath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of the sunshine or the storm, each in the windowless palace of rest! Earth may run red with other wars—they are at peace! In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict, they have found the serenity of Death!

“I have one sentiment for the soldiers, living or dead, ‘Cheers for the living, and tears for the dead.’ ”

KENTLAND FIRES

BEFORE the town of Kentland provided itself with the present admirable system of waterworks, it suffered from several severe fires. The first great calamity of that kind came on the night of December 13, 1870, when property to the value of over \$100,000 was destroyed, without one cent of insurance. The fire originated in the Kent building, which stood on the east side of the present main street, or Third street, facing the railroad (the corner now occupied by Mr. Rettinger's store building). It burned north to the corner now occupied by the Masonic building (corner Third and Graham), and also east along the railroad street, which was then the principal business thoroughfare. Kent's Hotel, which stood on about the present site of the large feed-barn, was one of the buildings destroyed.

It was a large and pretentious frame building (larger than any frame building in town at present) and shortly before the fire had been purchased by "Doctor" Nichols who was managing it at the time. Mr. Nichols is still living in Goodland. About fifteen buildings in all were destroyed.

On Thursday night, June 15, 1882, fire broke out in B. C. Kent's restaurant (which stood on about the present site of the Cummings law office), destroying that building and damaging several others. The sufferers were C. C. Brown, I. H. Coulter and Gilbert Goff. The total loss was about \$5,000 with insurance amounting to \$3,000.

On Thursday morning, April 5, 1883, Kentland was again nearly blotted out of existence, twenty-one buildings being destroyed by fire. The loss was over \$80,000. Those burned out were the Discount & Deposit Bank; Weedle & Coffman, restaurant; Gilbert Goff, dry goods; C. Rettinger, boots and shoes; D. P. Parks, harness; John Hubertz, residence and saloon; N. Kirsch, residence and saloon; H.

K. Warren, barn; Fred DeVoe, tinware; Chris. Arendt, boots and shoes; *People's Press*, printing office; George Myers, barber shop; James Gauthier, groceries; Keefe Bros., groceries and hardware; Mrs. Hull, millinery; A. C. Vanderwater, general merchandise; Mrs. J. D. Canders, millinery; W. S. McCullough, drugs; Graham & Jones, law office; G. A. R. hall; Masonic hall; *Newton County News*, printing office; T. H. Harnish, photographer; Poole Bros., hardware; John Peacock, real estate. There was partial insurance on most of this property.

On Sunday night, December 28, 1884, Kentland again suffered from a big fire, when the east side of Third street was once more wiped out, from S. M. Noble's store to the Perry corner, north. Loss about \$20,000.

On Thursday night, January 5, 1888, the dread visitor again spread ruin in Kentland. This time the west side of Third street suffered. The fire started in C. A. Wood's restaurant, which stood on the present site of the brick building occupied by Judge Darroch

and others, and spread south and across the alley to the north. Those sustaining losses were: T. Cunningham, building, \$700; C. A. Wood, restaurant stock, \$1,500; Gauthier & Son, building and furniture stock, \$2,400. Other small losses aggregated \$500.

On Wednesday morning, July 18, 1888, Kentland had another very destructive fire. The Brown elevator, the Bringham elevator, the Pennsylvania Railroad depot and eighteen freight cars were destroyed. The loss was over \$40,000.

February 2, 1889, added another disastrous fire to the list. The Smith and Kent block (on the present post-office corner) was destroyed together with contents. The owners of the building, R. C. McCain, druggist, and Gilbert Goff, dry goods merchant, lost about \$30,000.

Very early on the morning of February 20, 1890 (shortly after midnight), fire was discovered in the dry goods store of Horace Rosenthal, which was in a frame building that stood on the lot now occupied by the McCain drug store. The fire made rapid headway and

destroyed the Rosenthal stock, also Willis Kirkpatrick's grocery store, Ephraim Sell's hardware store, George Arnout's dry goods store, L. M. Moulton's restaurant, and the I. O. O. F. lodge room. The buildings were owned by Mrs. Payne, John C. Williams and Charles Frankenberger, and the total loss was about \$30,000, with \$20,000 insurance.

On Sunday night, August 3, 1890, fire broke out in what was known as the Farmers' Alliance elevator, which stood south of the track and east of the present elevators. The building had been erected in 1886, and was purchased by Seneca Gilbert a few weeks before it was entirely destroyed. Loss, \$27,000 with insurance of \$1,600.

On November 15, 1893, the Williams Brothers & Company machine shop, west of the present opera house, was burned to the ground. The loss was \$4,000 with \$1,000 insurance. A. Heilman's building, also the stables of H. K. Warren and E. S. Steele were burned. The Williams property was shortly afterward rebuilt, and on June 11, 1895, it was

again destroyed by fire. A residence belonging to John Bush, and occupied by A. A. Padgett, burned at the same time.

On Sunday, May 6, 1894, fire broke out in the rear upper floor of a building occupied by George F. Palmer and J. B. Dickson up-stairs, and by F. M. Oswalt's furniture store below. The building stood on the corner now occupied by Reed's furniture store. From that building the fire spread south to the L. W. Ross restaurant, the Harnish building (the upper floor of which was the K. of P. lodge room), the building occupied by T. H. Bergin and John Van Dyke, also the building next to the alley occupied by John Jackson as a meat market. Loss, \$10,000; insurance, \$6,000.

On January 15, 1902, fire was discovered in the upper story of the Kentland public school building. It soon gained such headway that nothing could be done to save the structure, which was entirely destroyed. It was a very good building, erected in 1871, at a cost of \$23,000, on which there was insurance amounting to \$8,500. A new school building, more

modern in character, was immediately erected on the same site.

On Thursday night, April 14, 1910, about nine o'clock, an alarm of fire was sounded and it was soon discovered that the large transfer elevator, owned by McCray, Morrison and Company, and standing south of the Panhandle track and east of Third street, was wrapped in flames.

For an hour or two this fire threatened to be the most disastrous in the history of the town, as a gale of wind was blowing from the southeast and large, blazing firebrands fell over the entire business and residence district to the north, but owing to a plentiful supply of water and the energetic efforts of the fire company, assisted by volunteers, who worked on the roofs of threatened buildings, the fire was confined to the original building, which was totally destroyed, with all its contents. There were about 57,000 bushels of grain in the house, valued at \$25,000. The property was valued at about \$50,000. The insurance on the building and contents was \$55,000.

DOUBLE FATALITIES

A RECITAL of the following tragic occurrences may not belong to the formal history of this community, but I have ventured to insert them because of the local interest in the sad events.

LULU RIDER AND MABEL ROSS

On Monday, July 8, 1901, two young ladies left Kentland and started on what promised to be a most enjoyable trip to the golden west. They were happy and exhilarated, for they had looked forward through many months to this journey to San Francisco, to attend the international convention of the Epworth League. One of these young ladies was Miss Lulu Rider, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George D. Rider. The other was Miss Mabel Ross, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Levi W. Ross. Both were graduates of the Kentland High School, and both left home with the best wishes, not only of their parents, but of the whole community in which they lived.

All went along well on the trip until Wednesday morning at seven o'clock, when their train collided with a freight train on the Chicago & Alton railroad, two miles west of Norton, Missouri. It was a head-on collision, caused, it was stated, by a misunderstanding of orders. The trains met on a curve on a high embankment, while going at high speed. The engines were demolished and the forward cars telescoped, while the foremost Pullman and sleeping cars were burned. The greatest loss of life was in the sleeping cars, among the victims being the two girls from Kentland, also Mrs. F. D. Gilman and Miss Dora Wickwire, of Goodland.

A relief train conveyed the injured to Kansas City, where they were cared for at the St. Joseph's and University hospitals. On the journey from Slater four of the injured died,

among them being Mabel Ross. The same train carried the body of Mrs. Gilman.

Wednesday morning Kentland was plunged into intense excitement, and the families of the two girls almost prostrated, when indefinite news of the wreck was received over the wires. Soon there came a telegram from Dr. Spotts, of Blackburn, Missouri, stating that Mabel Ross had been burned in a train wreck and was in St. Joseph's Hospital at Kansas City. Shortly afterward came a telegram from Agent Cable, of Blackburn, advising that Lulu Rider was severely scalded and had been removed to University Hospital, Kansas City. Meanwhile the two fathers were on their way to the scene of the disaster.

At four o'clock A. M., Thursday, Agent Smith, at Kentland, who had been at the keyboard all night, with friends and relatives of the two girls, received a telegram from George Ade, of Chicago, conveying the sad news that Lulu Rider had died at seven o'clock Wednesday night at University Hospital, Kansas City. Mabel Ross was not mentioned in the dispatch,

which added that Mrs. Gilman, of Goodland, was among the killed.

A telegram, dated Kansas City, July 11, 7:55 A. M., brought the following message:

“Lulu Rider dead, but unable to pick out from others. Come if possible.”

At half-past eight o'clock, Harry Davis wired from Chicago that Lulu Rider and Mrs. Gilman were dead and Dora Wickwire had a hip dislocated.

At 10:15 George Ade wired:

“Mrs. Gilman among the dead, and young lady still unidentified.”

Was this young lady Mabel Ross? This was the unanswered question that caused a feeling of dread and despondency among all who tried to answer it. There was no break in the silence until after one o'clock, when the last, lingering hope was destroyed by the following brief telegram:

“KANSAS CITY, MO., July 11, 1901.

“1:07 P. M.

“Girls both dead. GEORGE D. RIDER,
“L. W. ROSS.”

Friday, July 12, 1901, was a mournful day for Kentland, as it witnessed a double funeral. At eleven o'clock A. M., the train bearing the remains of Mabel Ross and Lulu Rider arrived here. The bodies were taken at once to the respective homes, accompanied by a large number of sympathizing friends. In the afternoon preliminary funeral services were held in both the Rider and Ross homes. These services were simple but pathetic. The caskets were then removed to the Methodist church, which was overflowing with mourners and friends, and surrounded by crowds who could not get inside. The Sheldon, Illinois, choir sang several hymns. H. A. Wingard read part of the 23d Psalm. J. Cooper, the Presbyterian minister, led in prayer, and J. C. Martin, pastor of the Methodist church, preached from the text, “But we sorrow not as those who have no hope.”

It was nearly six o'clock when the separate processions left the church, going in nearly opposite directions to the cemeteries. Lulu Rider was buried in Mount Zion cemetery, while Mabel Ross was laid away in the cemetery south of Kentland.

These girls had been warm friends, and it happened that their ages were about the same.

Lulu Rider was born April 19, 1876.

Mabel Ross was born May 10, 1876.

PATRICK KEEFE AND JAMES B. ROBERTS

On the morning of July 4, 1904, a party of us started from Kentland to spend the day at "Hazelden," near Brook. With little thought that anything could happen to mar the festivities of the day, we drove into the farm from the south. On reaching the Joseph Ade farmhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Talbott came running out to meet us and brought the terrible news, received over the telephone, concerning Patrick Keefe and James B. Roberts. The news referred to had been received at Kentland after

we left there, and had reached the town through the medium, first, of an early edition of the *Indianapolis Star*, which gave an account of a wreck on the Wabash railroad between Forest and St. Louis. As it was known that Mr. Keefe and Mr. Roberts were on that train, some uneasiness was felt in regard to their safety, and inquiries were started to ascertain the facts in the case. The first move made in that direction was to telephone William Keefe, of Raub, Indiana, as to whether there was anything in the Chicago papers regarding the wreck, as the town of Raub received Chicago papers on the Big Four route earlier than we did.

About nine o'clock Mr. Keefe answered back that the Chicago papers gave a list of the killed and wounded, but none was named as being from Kentland. However, he stated, there was a James B. Roberts, of "Catlin, Indiana," reported internally injured. The general impression at once was that a mistake had been made in the name of the town, and it seemed probable that the address of a passen-

ger named James B. Roberts should have been "Kentland" instead of "Catlin."

Then the question naturally suggested itself, Why had no message been received from Mr. Keefe?

Fifteen hours had elapsed since the accident, and those who knew him felt sure that he would, if able to do so, communicate with his friends to assure them of the safety of himself and his friend. Was Mr. Keefe also injured, or killed?

Dispatches of inquiry were sent, first to the Associated Press, of Chicago, then to the hospital and to private parties at Litchfield, Illinois, at which point the accident occurred. At 10:10 o'clock, not a word had been received in answer to the several telegrams sent, and at that time the west-bound train arrived in Kentland. Will H. Ade, James Chancellor, George D. Rider and Bernard Roberts, a son of James B. Roberts, boarded this train and started for the scene of the disaster.

About noon the first reply to the messages sent came from the agent at Litchfield, saying:

“Robert Keith among the dead. Notify friends.”

This message merely intensified the doubt, but it was taken to mean that probably both Roberts and Keefe were dead.

About three P. M., another telegram was received from Litchfield, saying:

“Keefe died at four o'clock this morning.”

Nothing was said about Roberts.

Will H. Ade and James Chancellor reached Litchfield at 5:30 that evening and half an hour later at the morgue they found the bodies of both Mr. Keefe and Mr. Roberts. They immediately made preparations for returning home with the bodies, and telegraphed to Kentland that they would reach there at 11:10 A. M., Tuesday, July 5, which they did.

Patrick Keefe and James B. Roberts started from Kentland Sunday morning, July 3, 1904, to attend the national democratic convention at St. Louis. Patrick Keefe was one of the democratic nominees for elector in Indiana,

and James B. Roberts held the credentials of an alternate delegate. They drove to Effner, and at 11:30 A. M., took a train for Forest, Illinois, where they connected with a train on the Wabash leaving Chicago at 11:08 A. M., and due in St. Louis at 7:03 the same evening. At Litchfield, Illinois, a little after five o'clock, their train crashed through an open switch at the coal mines, within the city limits. The train consisted of nine coaches, seven of them being destroyed by fire. Eighteen lives were lost and thirty-five persons hurt, many of them seriously. Keefe and Roberts were both in the fourth car and were frightfully scalded by the steam and hot water escaping from the boiler of the engine. However, they were able to make their escape from the car before the flames overtook them, and were, by their own efforts, able to reach St. Francis Hospital before the attendants at that institution had heard of the accident. On arriving at the hospital in a carriage which had been kindly furnished them, they were at once cared for by the doctors and nurses. They were placed on cots in

the same room and everything possible was done for their relief.

The attending physicians informed Ade and Chancellor that both men remained conscious to the last, Mr. Keefe dying about two o'clock Monday morning and Mr. Roberts about two hours later.

When Ade and Chancellor arrived at Kentland on Tuesday, July 5, 1904, with all that remained mortal of Patrick Keefe and James B. Roberts, a vast concourse of citizens was at the depot awaiting the arrival of the train. The body of Mr. Keefe was taken to the new and commodious home which he had just finished and furnished. The body of Mr. Roberts was taken to his late happy and comfortable home, from whence, but two days before, he had gone forth in the full strength of manhood, and with the prospect of a long life before him.

On Thursday, July 7, 1904, the funeral services of Patrick Keefe were held at the Catholic church in Kentland, and he was afterward laid to rest in the St. Anthony cemetery, seven miles southeast of Kentland, by the side of his wife,

who had died twenty-seven years before. It was estimated that fully one thousand attended the funeral, and not less than one hundred and fifty conveyances followed the remains from the church to the cemetery. Patrick Keefe was born March 23, 1845. He died July 4, 1904.

The remains of James B. Roberts were laid to rest in the family burial lot at Pleasant Grove cemetery, about three miles north of Kentland, on Wednesday afternoon, July 6, 1904.

A short prayer and song service was held at the home at one o'clock. The funeral cortege was preceded by the Kentland Band and the Masonic order, in carriages, followed by a procession over a mile long, which nearly doubled in size before reaching the church. It was estimated that fully three hundred conveyances and twelve hundred people drove up to the little country church door. Not one-third of those present could possibly gain access and were forced to remain outside in a drenching rain. All Newton county contrib-

uted to this sorrowing throng, and business was entirely suspended in Kentland as a mark of respect to the deceased. Mr. Rogers, of Remington, minister of the Christian church at that place, and a personal friend of the deceased, preached the funeral sermon. His eulogy of Mr. Roberts deeply affected the hearers.

Mr. Roberts was a member of the Masonic lodge, also a Royal Arch Mason. Owing to the heavy rain the ritualistic services of the order were held in the church, after which the remains were deposited in its last resting place. James B. Roberts was born in Washington township, Newton county, Indiana, on November 25, 1856. He died at Litchfield, Illinois, July 4, 1904.

A MILL ACCIDENT

A terrible accident, by which two lives were lost, occurred at the Brook flouring mill on February 21, 1864. This mill stood on the south bank of the Iroquois, near the point now crossed by the Eastern Illinois railway.

In this accident, Edgar Hawkins and Mrs. William Personett, both well known throughout the county, lost their lives.

Edgar Hawkins was father of Barnet, George, Frank and William Hawkins, all of whom became well-known citizens of the county. Mrs. Personett was a sister of Henry and David Jones, both remembered as residents of Kentland.

The facts concerning the accident are gleaned from a copy of the *Newton County Union*, February 25, 1864.

Mr. Hawkins was one of the proprietors of the mill, and lived near it. Mr. and Mrs. Personett were visiting at the Hawkins home. During the evening, Mrs. Personett and Mrs. Hawkins went over to the mill and Mr. Hawkins, carrying a light, started to show them the working machinery. Mrs. Personett's clothes were caught in a revolving shaft and in an instant she was drawn into the machinery and so mangled that she died within an hour. Mr. Hawkins tried to rescue her and was caught and drawn in, his arm being literally torn from

the socket. He lingered until ten o'clock the next morning, when he died, after suffering the most excruciating pain.

Mrs. Hawkins narrowly escaped death in her efforts to help the other two. Her clothes were torn from her body but she was saved by Morris Lyons, who succeeded in stopping the machinery.

RECENT CELEBRATIONS

WITHOUT attempting to enumerate all of the notable gatherings that have marked the history of the county, I wish to call attention to some recent public assemblages that seem to me to have been of unusual interest.

JUDGE TAFT AT HAZELDEN

On September 23, 1908, there was held at the country residence of George Ade, two miles east of the town of Brook, what was undoubtedly the largest and most interesting public meeting in the history of the county. Fully 25,000 people, coming from Newton and adjoining counties, from Indiana and other states, met to take part in what was not only a political demonstration, but also a tribute by men of all parties to a distinguished American.

Special trains were run from all directions, and 200 automobiles, with hundreds of carriages, brought the multitude together from every direction.

Of course, William Howard Taft, candidate for president, was the central figure in this demonstration.

The Taft special left Cincinnati at eight o'clock in the morning, over the Big Four, was transferred to the C. I. & S. railroad at Sheff, and passed through Kentland at 11:45, reaching the town of Ade at twelve o'clock noon. Six big automobiles were in waiting at Ade to convey Judge Taft and party to Hazelden, and they reached the farm about 12:45. Upon their arrival they were at once seated at tables in the dining-room, where they partook of a luncheon already prepared and awaiting them.

At 1:15, Judge Taft was introduced to the immense crowd that had assembled on the lawn, facing the front of the house. Two long sections of circus seats had been provided and the crowd was massed conveniently for all to

hear the speaking. Judge Taft spoke for almost an hour, and his presentation of the issues of the campaign was dignified, forceful and effective. He was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause, and at the conclusion of his speech was given a magnificent ovation. Immediately following the speaking, Judge Taft and his party returned to Ade and resumed their journey to Chicago.

The presence of Judge Taft, as well as his speech, had a magnetic effect on the vast throng, and the woods of Hazelden rang with enthusiasm during the remainder of the day. The Second Regiment Band, of Chicago, the Purdue Band, of fifty pieces, the Juvenile Band of Monticello, the Brook Band and the Harlequin Glee Club, of Purdue University, provided the music. There was good music all day, and plenty of it.

James E. Watson, republican candidate for governor, followed Mr. Taft on the program, and he was in turn followed by other speakers of note.

The affair from start to finish was a splendid

success. Everybody went home impressed with the fact that they had attended the greatest and most interesting political gathering ever held in this section of Indiana.

UNVEILING SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AT BROOK

The new soldiers' monument at Brook was unveiled September 16, 1909. On the evening of the 15th the veterans and their friends assembled at Brook held an interesting "camp-fire," at which anecdotes were told and many war-time experiences related. Then came the speech of the evening, by Hon. E. D. Crumpacker, along patriotic lines. This speech was greatly praised and much appreciated by an audience of over 1,000 persons.

Thursday had been set apart especially for the unveiling and dedication of a monument to the deceased soldiers who had gone to the Civil War from Iroquois township. This monument was erected in McKinley park, and is alike an honor to those whose names are inscribed thereon and a credit to the patriotism

and generosity of those who assisted in its erection.

The morning opened bright and fair and visitors began pouring in from Kentland, Goodland, Morocco and surrounding country. When the first part of the program was called at 10:30 A. M., fully 2,000 people had gathered, while half as many more were added in the afternoon.

The afternoon had one disappointment in store for those who came to hear Ex-Senator Mason. The band and entire delegation of old soldiers and citizens marched in a body to the depot to meet him, as the 1:27 train pulled into the station, but he failed to arrive. The disappointed crowd marched back to the park, thrown entirely upon their own resources to carry out the program of the day. About two o'clock, J. B. Lyons called the people to order. After prayer by Rev. Snyder, music by the band and song by the school children, John Ade was called to the chair and he took up the task of directing the unveiling of the monument dedicated to the living and dead soldiers

of Iroquois township, and made the afternoon address.

When the ceremony was over, the old soldiers and their families were treated to an automobile ride to Hazelden farm.

This reunion and the ceremonies connected with the same, passed into history as one of the noted days of Newton county's history.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 21, 1910, was a great day for Kentland and Newton county, for on that day was celebrated the golden anniversary of the organization of Newton county.

About a week previous to this time a public meeting had been called by the citizens for the purpose of making arrangements to celebrate the event. Committees were appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and well did the several committees perform their respective duties.

The day opened beautifully, so far as weather was concerned. This was the more

remarkable from the fact that it was the only fine day we had for a long time, both before and after this date. There was nothing doing in the forenoon, except the meeting of old friends and acquaintances, the talking over of old-time incidents and the comparing of conditions existing fifty years before with those of the present day.

The afternoon program began with an automobile parade of school children, each waving an American flag. There were about forty autos in the parade, conveying not less than 350 school children. All were singing songs and waving flags, showing that they were happy, and all who witnessed this unusual parade were happy with them.

This parade was followed by a meeting in the court house, the courtroom being filled to the last inch, and scarcely one-third of those desiring admittance could get in.

John Ade, the only surviving member of the first roster of county officials, who were installed fifty years before, on April 21, 1860, called the meeting to order. He was im-

mediately presented, by Sherman White, of Brook, with a gavel made from a part of the chinking between the logs of the building in which the first term of court was held, after the organization of Jasper county, in 1838.

The venerable C. McCain then offered up a prayer of thankfulness to the Author of all good for the many blessings enjoyed and asked that the same might long be continued to us.

This was followed by a short talk by the presiding officer. William Darroch then reviewed the history of the courts of the county. He embellished his narrative with some good stories and also gave a history of some of the noted trials in the county. Fred H. Longwell then made a most interesting address, after which the meeting adjourned to the court house yard. Here the crowd was treated to a very fine display of Japanese day fireworks, something entirely new to many and a source of great pleasure to all. Then came a game of soft baseball between the business men of Brook and Kentland, followed by more fireworks and adjournment until 7:30 P. M.

At the night meeting, held in the court house, the presiding officer read letters from Judge S. P. Thompson, Judge Peter H. Ward, John B. Conner, J. C. Martin and Daniel Dearduff. He then introduced Judge U. Z. Wiley, of Indianapolis, formerly judge of Newton circuit court. Judge Wiley is a pleasing speaker upon any occasion, but especially so when the line of talk is reminiscent.

Judge Edwin P. Hammond was then introduced by the chair, and in his quiet, dignified manner talked for nearly an hour. His association with Newton county, he stated, extended back to the days of the famous Bank of America, at Morocco, in the early fifties. Judge Hammond is a grand old man and Newton county is proud of the claim she has upon him.

INDIANA SOCIETY AT HAZELDEN FARM

Saturday, June 25, 1910, was another great day at Hazelden, the home of George Ade. The Indiana Society of Chicago had been

invited to spend the day there and they accepted the invitation. The make-up of the program for the day and the invitations to outside guests was entirely under the control of the society, but the provision for feeding them had been assumed and arranged for by George Ade himself.

The day opened fine and the weather throughout the day was perfect, all that could be desired. The grounds had been beautifully decorated. Large flags had been unfurled and were gently waving in the breeze. About nine o'clock in the morning automobiles loaded with invited guests began to arrive from Indianapolis, Lafayette, South Bend, Hammond, Rensselaer, Kentland and other points. By the time the special train from Chicago arrived at Brook, there were more than eighty automobiles on the ground ready to start for the station, some two miles distant, to convey the 500 members of the society to Hazelden. At 11:30 A. M., preceded by their own band, they formed a procession, marched in and took possession of the grounds for the day. By this

time there were nearly 800 people assembled, ready to take part in the festivities.

About 12:30 a procession was formed at the east end of the grounds, and, led by the band, it proudly marched to the west end, where ample preparation had been made for feeding the multitude. These preparations had been under the supervision of the ladies of the M. E. Church, of Kentland, Indiana. Fifty tables had been spread, seats arranged and waiters provided for each table. Judging by what took place in the next half-hour, the guests fully appreciated all that had been done for them. A partial list of the bill of fare was as follows:

- 415 fried chickens
- 50 cakes
- 20 gallons salad
- 6 gallons pickles
- 12 gallons beans
- 1,500 cookies
- 12 gallons Dutch cheese
- 50 loaves of bread
- 7 hams
- 2 crates of eggs
- 4 crates of lemons

RECENT CELEBRATIONS 293

50 glasses of jelly
1,500 rolls
200 pounds of summer sausage

Also there were many freezers of ice-cream and many gallons of coffee.

After dinner was over the program of the afternoon was carried out in full:

1:00 to 1:30—Day fireworks.

1:30 to 2:00—Mathematical races (couples).

2:00 to 2:15—Egg and spoon race.

2:15 to 2:30—Affinity races (married couples).

2:30 to 2:45—Affinity races (unmarried couples).

2:45 to 3:00—Dressing contest for men.

3:00 to 3:15—Throwing baseball by ladies.

3:15 to 4:15—Baseball.

4:15 to 5:00—Swimming and diving races.

5:00—Distribution of prizes.

6:30—Supper.

7:00—Return to Brook.

A few of the prominent persons in attendance were Ex-Vice-President Fairbanks and

wife, Senator A. J. Beveridge, Ex-Governor Durbin and wife, Mayor Shank and wife, all of Indianapolis; John M. Studebaker and wife, and Joseph Oliver, of South Bend; to say nothing of the many well-known Hoosiers now living in Chicago.

LAYING A CORNER-STONE

At the time of the location of the county seat at Kentland, A. J. Kent donated to the county 160 acres of land, for the purpose of a poor farm, the same being the southeast quarter of section 23, town 28, range 8, west. This was never used for that purpose, and on the 17th day of August, 1872, John S. Veatch, then auditor of Newton county, by virtue of an order made by the county commissioners directing him to do so, offered the above described land for sale at public auction. The same was sold to Jonathan W. Stryker for the sum of \$12.01 per acre.

In the meantime the county commissioners had purchased, on the 10th day of September,

1868, two hundred acres of land from Solomon and H. K. Warren, the same being the southwest quarter and a part of the northwest quarter of section 13, town 28, range 9, for the purpose of a poor farm. This land they held until June 6, 1872, when the above described land was sold to John Sell for \$5,510. This land is now owned by Manro Sell and Fred Spangler.

In 1878 the commissioners purchased from W. H. H. Graham, trustee, 104 acres of land about four miles north of Kentland, to be used as a poor farm, to which has been added from time to time until now the farm contains a little over 300 acres. In 1891, George D. Rider took the contract and erected a large, commodious frame building, at a cost to the county of about \$4,100. This building was used continuously until the night of January 18, 1910, when it was totally destroyed by fire. Afterward, on the 24th day of May, 1910, the commissioners made a contract with Fred Friedline and Company to erect a brick building according to the plans and specifications furnished by John Bruck, architect, for the

sum of \$22,985. When the walls were up to top of the basement story, the contractor and county commissioners requested the Masonic lodge of Kentland to lay the corner-stone of said building, in accordance with the rules and usages of the Grand Lodge of Masonry of the State of Indiana.

The writer was appointed special deputy grand master and on August 13, 1910, opened a grand lodge at Kentland by the appointment of the following deputy grand officers:

Ephraim Sell, deputy grand master.

William Perry, deputy grand senior warden.

Levi Rehard, deputy grand junior warden.

Robert F. Seal, deputy grand treasurer.

J. Z. Johnston, deputy grand secretary.

John Higgins, deputy grand senior deacon.

David S. Fletcher, deputy grand junior deacon.

A. L. Clark, deputy grand chaplain.

Jira Skinner, deputy grand marshal.

Frank Skinner, deputy grand steward.

Harry Higgins, deputy grand steward.

T. B. Cunningham, deputy grand tyler.

We proceeded to the site of the building, and there, in the presence of a large delegation of Masons from adjoining lodges, and citizens of the county, proceeded to lay the cornerstone of the Newton County Infirmary in accordance with the ritual and rules of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of Indiana.

The following named articles were placed in a box which was deposited in a cavity in the corner-stone:

Silver, nickel and copper U. S. coins.

Copy of *Newton County Enterprise*, *Kentland Democrat*, *Goodland Herald*, *Brook Reporter*, *Morocco Courier*, and *Mount Ayr Pilot*.

History of organization of Newton county, with names of first officers.

List of Masonic lodges in the county, with names of master and secretary and number of members.

Names of present county officers.

Programme of the day, together with names of architect and contractor of the building.

Copy of by-laws of Newton Lodge No. 361
A. F. & A. M.

Copy of the proceedings of the Grand
Lodge of Masons of Indiana for the year 1910.

After the ceremony of the corner-stone lay-
ing was finished, L. H. Recher, of Morocco
lodge, made a very beautiful and fitting ad-
dress.

PAST AND PRESENT

IN noting the changes that have taken place in the last fifty or sixty years, we are very apt to record only the changes in what we call large things, such as the material development of the country, the building of railroads and the large expenditures for public improvements. But there have been marvelous changes in what we might term the little things which go to make up the comforts and pleasures of the house and home.

One of these changes, which I will first mention, concerns the use of artificial light. The majority of homes sixty years ago consisted of a single room, with a loft for the children above. The room below usually had a big fireplace in one end, generally five or six feet in length, and during the long, winter evenings the fire was kept brisk enough to furnish all

the light needed about the room. When additional light was needed a saucer or small tin pan was partially filled with lard or some other kind of grease, then a strip of rag was inserted in the grease and lighted, and this rude lamp was carried to any place where additional light was needed. After this came candles, which were started by cutting strips of wick twice the length of the intended candle, then doubling the wicks and stringing them on sticks, the ends being tied. There would be ten or twelve wicks on each stick. Dipping these wicks in melted tallow and taking them out to let them drip was continued until enough tallow had gathered around the wick to form a candle. These were known as "dipped" candles, and the making of candles by this process was an important duty in all well-managed households.

Following this process came the candle made in molds. There were usually six made in each mold. The wicks were first inserted, then the melted grease was poured in. When cool enough the candles were removed from

the molds, and you had a neater and more uniform candle than the one made by the dipping process.

About 1857 the first coal-oil lamp was introduced in Jasper county by LaRue & Brother, of Rensselaer. The oil at that time was in the crude state and sold for one dollar and fifty cents per gallon. Very few people at that time were brave enough to light one of these lamps in the house. It was several years before the oil lamp came into use, superseding candles for lighting purposes.

The next great advance came with the adoption of electricity for lighting purposes. The first use made of electricity for illuminating purposes in Newton county was at Kentland on Friday evening, April 20, 1894, when the town was first lighted by electricity. A. T. Presson and Henry V. Templeton were the owners of the power plant.

There has been a wonderful improvement in the modes and methods of transportation. Fifty years ago the man who owned a Chicago made wagon stood at the top of the list and a

spring seat for the wagon was entirely unknown. The nearest approach to providing a seat was to have iron hooks, two on each side of the wagon body, front and rear. A small, tough pole was hung on these hooks, one on each side of the wagon bed. Boards were placed on these poles, crosswise, to serve as seats. A little relief would thus be given to passengers in crossing the rough places in the road. Several years afterward spring seats were added, when specially ordered, by the makers of the best styles in wagons. It was not until after the war that carriages and buggies made their first appearance and it was several years later before they may be said to have come into general use. Later on, almost every farm hand was the owner of a horse and buggy. At one time the bicycle seemed to take the place of horse and buggy among the young men, but it soon lost out, and the buggy again came to the front. Now, within the past five years the automobile has taken the place of all other vehicles. Distance is almost eliminated, and the facilities for business or pleasure have

been increased almost ten fold by the use of the motor car.

The changes in the manner of dress, both as regards male and female attire, are equally marked. In the early days the clothing was almost universally home-made. This included not only the garments themselves, but the material from which they were manufactured. Most of the farmers who were able to do so kept a few sheep. Once a year the wool would be loaded up and a trip made to Yountsville, a point near Crawfordsville, where there was a woolen mill. Here they would trade their wool for jeans and linsey—the jeans for the male members of the family and the linsey for the female. Others spun the wool at home and did their own weaving. The women's bonnets were all home-made, and universally of a style known as "sun bonnets." The shoes were often home-made and had to last a year, or at least through that part of the year in which they were necessary. As a matter of fact, I have seen young women walk several miles to attend some public meeting, remaining bare-

footed until they arrived in the neighborhood of the gathering. There they would put on their shoes, wear them during the services and when the meeting was over they would walk part of the way home, when they would remove their shoes and walk the balance of the way barefooted. Now, with the fashion hints received from *The Ladies' Home Journal* and like publications, both male and female residents of the country and small towns demand the latest styles in footwear, and I don't know of any one who has a better right to them.

As this was a prairie country the early methods of farming were somewhat different from the methods adopted in the older and more settled parts of the state. The plows were much larger, for one thing. In breaking the raw prairie, oxen were used exclusively. Generally, there were four or five yoke of oxen attached to each plow. There were several reasons for using oxen. One was the scarcity of feed necessary for horses. Oxen could be worked all day and then be turned out on the prairie where they would get plenty of grass

and be ready for work again the next morning. Another reason was, that the "green head flies" were so thick and such a torment that it was almost impossible to use horses. And still another reason was, a team of oxen could be rigged out more cheaply than a team of horses. The plows were much larger than the ordinary plow of to-day and turned over a furrow eighteen to twenty-four inches wide.

The breaking of prairie would begin in the spring as soon as the grass would get big enough to furnish feed for the cattle. The early plowing would generally be planted in corn, by dropping the seed on the edge of every second or third furrow, depending on the size of the plow. The later breaking would be put into wheat in the fall. By this method they would usually get a fair crop of corn the first season.

As the land became older and the sod rotted away, the field was prepared for corn by first plowing it and then furrowing it, both ways, with a single shovel plow. The seed was dropped at the intersections of these furrows.

The planter usually consisted of a small boy, although frequently it was the wife or daughter of the farmer. The man of the farm followed along and covered the seed with a hoe.

Afterward a machine was invented for planting corn. This dispensed with the marking except in one direction. Under the new method a boy rode on the machine, ahead of the driver, and when the spouts containing the seed crossed the furrows, he pulled a lever and that dropped the corn, and the wheels of the machine did the covering. This was a very great advance and enabled the farmer to plant many more acres than by the old system.

The next improvement was the check-rower which dispensed with the marking out and did the work that the boy did in handling the lever. Now one man can plant as much corn in a day and do it better than eight or ten men could under the old system.

In the work of harvesting the grain there has been a series of improvements. The original method of cutting grain was with the sickle. This was a slow, back-aching process

but some men became very expert in the use of this tool. It is now, however, a lost art.

The first improvement along this line was the "cradle." While it was a great improvement over the sickle, it is now a back number. Many of our young people would get a wrong idea were they to hear the "cradle" spoken of as an implement of husbandry.

Next came the old McCormick reaper. This at first was a crude, heavy, cumbersome implement. A man had to rake the grain off the machine before it was bound. Then the self-rake was attached, which dispensed with the services of the man. Later, a machine was used upon which men rode and tied the grain in bundles, after which it was thrown off the machine to the shocker. The next move was the self-binder, first using wire, but, as this proved objectionable, twine was finally adopted. The twine binder is still in use.

Step by step the drudgery and hard labor of harvest time have been transferred from man to the machine.

After grain is harvested the next thing in

order is the separation of grain from the straw and chaff. In this part of the farmer's work the changes are as great as any that have been mentioned. The original way of making this separation was by the use of the flail, or by tramping out the grain with horses. This latter method, when there was no barn floor to operate on, was to clear a piece of ground as clean as possible, spread the grain down in a circle, and then put the boys on as many horses as the owner of the grain could furnish. The boys would keep the horses going around and around until the grain was separated from the straw. The straw was then taken away and the grain run through the fanning-mill, if one was to be had. In the absence of the mill, the grain would be thrown up in the air and the wind would blow away the chaff, the grain falling down in a heap.

The first machine to do threshing, that I have any knowledge of, was by single horse-power—the horse on a tread-mill. The power so generated ran a small cylinder. Under this method, however, the grain had to be run

through a fanning-mill to separate the grain from the chaff.

The next step in advance was the traveling threshing machine which got its power from gearing attached to the hind wheels of the machine when in motion. When threshing from the shock, the driver would pass along by a row of shocks, and one or more men afoot would throw a sheaf from each shock as it passed. A man riding on a platform would feed the grain to the machine, the straw would be scattered behind the machine and the grain be caught in a large box under the cylinder. This machine was provided with a fan and the grain was made comparatively clean. There were generally four horses used on the machine and sometimes six. When threshing from a stack, they would load some ten dozen sheaves on the platform, then drive around a circle large enough to thresh that amount of grain, and repeat the operation.

The next machine used was a long step in advance. This was stationary and got its power, generally, from eight horses hitched to

long levers attached to a central cog wheel, and the power was transferred to the separator by shafting. This machine continued in use for many years and the same principle still continues, except that steam has taken the place of horses as a source of power, and the separator is much larger. Improvements have been made from time to time, until now much of the hard work formerly done by hand is done by the machine, especially in disposing of the straw.

IN CONCLUSION

AND now, having briefly described some of the conditions existing years ago in Newton county, and having narrated some of the events that have come under my observation since 1853, I am compelled to say that the great changes I have witnessed and the facts of history that I have helped to accomplish, seem to me more like a dream than a collection of realities.

In my own case, I can hardly realize that all the changes affecting my family relations have really taken place.

When I came to Newton county in 1853, my family consisted of a wife and one child. Now, the wife has been taken and I am surrounded by grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Then, this region was an unsettled waste; now nearly every remote corner is un-

der cultivation and the entire country is dotted with comfortable homes of a prosperous and happy people.

Then four millions of human beings were held in slavery and bought and sold as other chattels; now our land is in reality "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Then Chicago was a city of less than twenty-five thousand; now it claims two and one-half millions.

Then the north part of Lake county was an almost impassable swamp; now it is bristling with factories and contains a population of one hundred thousand.

Since that time we have passed from the slow plodding team of horses and oxen to the steam and electric trains running with almost lightning speed.

Telegraph and telephone lines now make our desires known to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Now instead of the tallow dip or the saucer of grease, we have the electric light.

Now, instead of the log school and meeting-

houses, the handsome frame and brick buildings have taken their places.

Now, instead of the men and women being clothed in home-made and home-spun clothing, they are clothed both for comfort and adornment.

Now, instead of lumber wagons in which to make our pleasure trips we have the speedy automobiles.

Instead of the cradle for cutting the grain, we now have the self-binding reaper, while the separator measures the grain and stacks the straw.

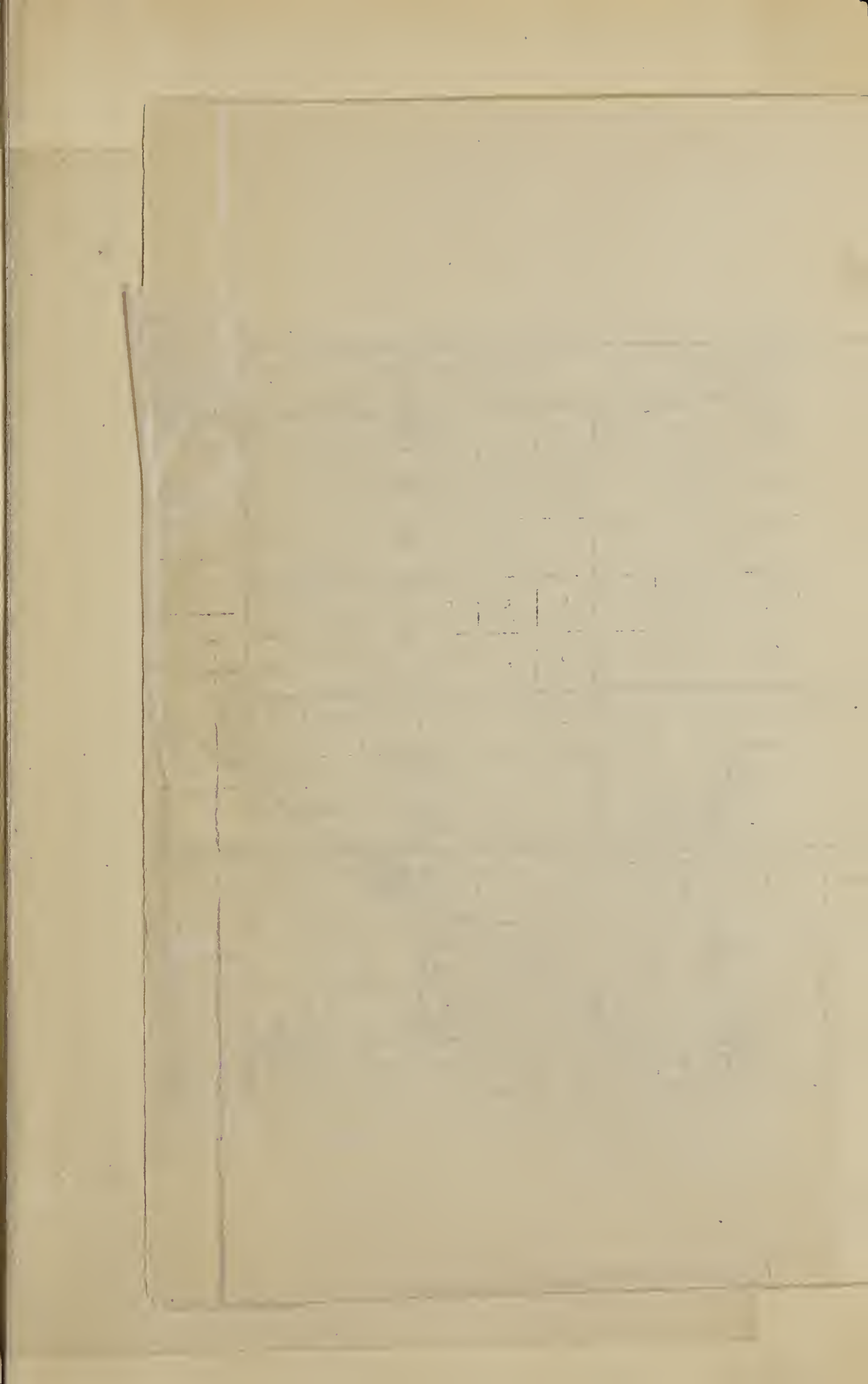
Instead of the almost impassable roads in the spring of the year, we have the stone roads spreading a net-work over the country.

Notwithstanding the many changes above described, which would seem to cover nearly every phase of life, there is one thing, I am thankful to say, that has not changed in all these years. That is, the kindness and loving friendship of the citizens of Newton and adjoining counties. In return, I think I can truthfully say, there is not one that I can not

take by the hand, look him squarely in the face and say: "May God bless you and prosper you in all the walks of life!"

And now what of the future? To me it is a sealed book. I have called attention to some facts of our development. May we hope that future changes will be as startling as those witnessed during the last fifty years?

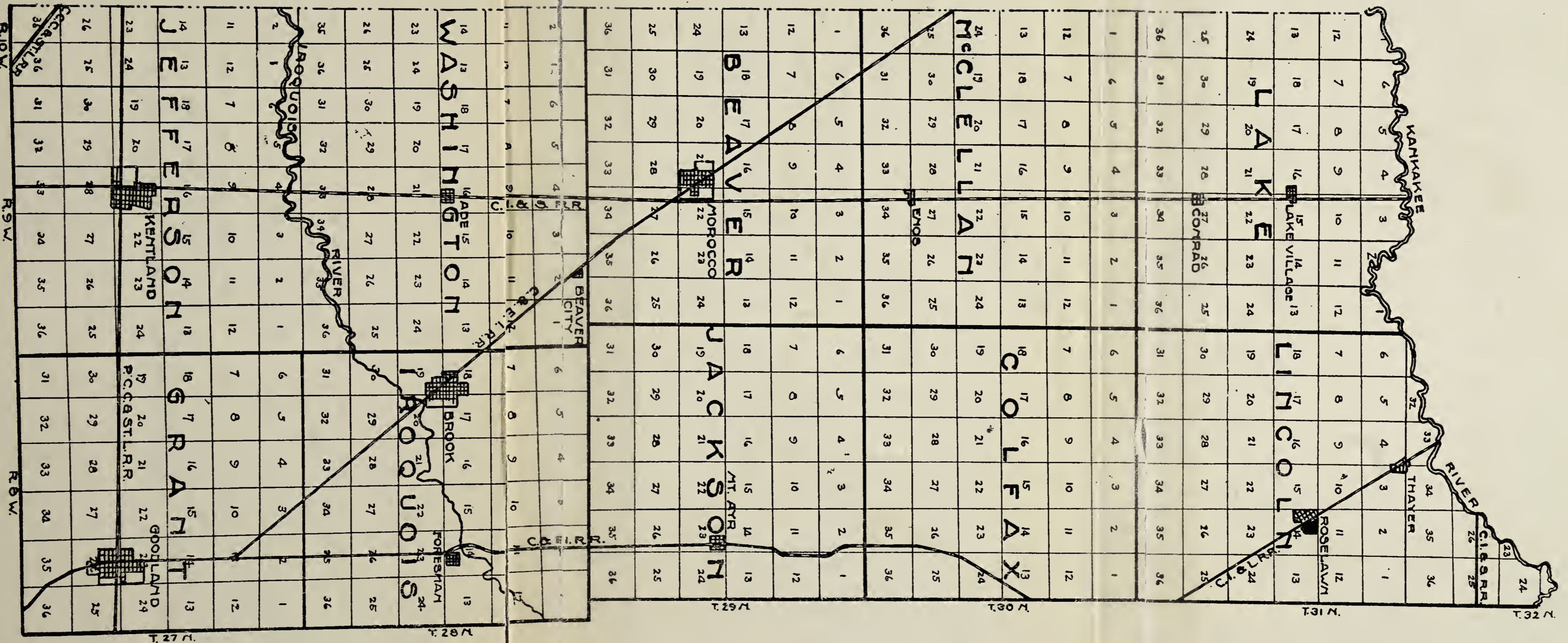
This much, I think, we can safely say. The men who have lived and worked in the past and up to the present have not exhausted the supply of improvements and discoveries to be made for the benefit of the human family. It seems to me, at this time, the changes and discoveries can not be as marked in the next sixty years as they have been in the past but the facts of life can not be revealed except as they come to us day after day. And as we are not in possession of the key which unlocks the future, we at this point close the book. *cc*



take by the hand, look him squarely in the face and say: "May God bless you and prosper you in all the walks of life!"

And now what of the future? To me it is a sealed book. I have called attention to some facts of our development. May we hope that future changes will be as startling as those witnessed during the last fifty years?

This much, I think, we can safely say. The men who have lived and worked in the past and up to the present have not exhausted the supply of improvements and discoveries to be made for the benefit of the human family. It seems to me, at this time, the changes and discoveries can not be as marked in the next sixty years as they have been in the past but the facts of life can not be revealed except as they come to us day after day. And as we are not in possession of the key which unlocks the future, we at this point close the book. *a.s.*



R.10 W.

R.9 W.

R.8 W.

T.27 N.

T.28 N.

T.29 N.

T.30 N.

T.31 N.

T.32 N.









HECKMAN BINDERY
BOUND TO
AUG 3 1940
PLEASE
MANCHESTER, IND.

